

## King receives message from Prince Hassan

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Abdullah on Tuesday received a message from HRH Prince Hassan, who congratulated the King upon his assumption of his constitutional duties. "I send you sincere congratulations from a compassionate uncle and father," Prince Hassan said in his message to the Hashemite Monarch. "You are the son of Al Hussein Ben Talal, whose name remains high for his achievements as one of the nation's knights in this century." The Prince prayed to God for the success and prosperity of King Abdullah in serving Jordan and its people. Prince Hassan also congratulated HRH Crown Prince Hamzah for his designation as heir to the Throne. "Through Your Majesty, I send sincere congratulations to Prince Hamzah," he said.

Volume 24 Number 7067

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published weekly by the Jordan Press Foundation

جورдан تايمز يومية سياسية نظرية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية الرأي



AMMAN WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1999, SHAWWAL 24, 1419

Price: Jordan 200 Fils

## Announcement on condolences

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Protocol announcement Tuesday said condolences by women mourners, to be presented at Zahrani Palace on Thursday, Feb. 11, 1999 between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., will be restricted to the following: the wives of the prime minister, the Senate president, the Lower House speaker, the chief of the Royal Court, the King's advisors, former prime ministers, senators, deputies, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, senior officers of the Armed Forces and the Public Security, General Intelligence and Civil Defence departments, ambassadors to Jordan, heads of regional and international organisations, the mayor and the governor of Amman, and the heads of non-governmental and charitable organisations.

## Cuba in mourning for King Hussein

HAVANA (AFP) — Cuba declared a day of mourning for Jordan's King Hussein, according to national television Monday. Flags were to be lowered to half-staff for 24 hours from 1700 GMT Monday, the broadcast said. The station also aired images of the Hashemite King's funeral in Amman. Cuba and Jordan maintain normal diplomatic relations.

## Syrian presence at funeral welcomed

DUBAI (AFP) — The Gulf press on Tuesday said the funeral of King Hussein united Arab states despite their conflicts, welcoming in particular the presence of Syrian President Hafez Assad. "Israel is doing its best to create a gulf between" Jordan and Syria, "but Assad's visit aborted the plot hatched by Tel Aviv," Qatar's Al Watan newspaper said. "Jordan united Arab leaders, who in the face of the Jordanian people's grief, testified to the nobility of the Arab character and put their conflicts behind them," the United Arab Emirates' Al Wahda daily said. The newspaper in particular welcomed the presence of Assad and Kuwait's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah. "The widespread participation of world leaders at King Hussein's funeral reflects his stature, which reflected in Jordan's role in international and regional affairs," Saudi daily Al Madina said.

## Aid to PNA dedicated to King Hussein

RAFAH (R) — The private international relief group AmeriCares delivered \$3.3 million in medical supplies to the Palestinian National Authority on Tuesday, dedicating the shipment to the memory of King Hussein. A cargo plane carrying the aid landed at Gaza International Airport, which opened last November. "It is in [the King's] honour," said Debra Zarkowsky, executive director of the Texas Hadassah Medical Research Foundation which coordinated the 50-tonne shipment, part of which will be used by Hadassah facilities in Israel that also treat Palestinians. "It is something we know he would have supported because of his interests in furthering the peace process," she said. Palestinian Health Minister Riad Al Zanoun said the medical supplies would be transferred to hospitals and clinics in Gaza and the West Bank.

## U.N. calls King Hussein 'peace warrior'

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The U.N. Security Council on Tuesday called King Hussein "a steadfast warrior for peace" and one of the greatest leaders in the Middle East. Paying tribute to the King at its first meeting since his death on Sunday, the council offered its condolences and sympathy to His Majesty King Abdullah, Her Majesty Queen Noor and the people of Jordan. "We have all lost a steadfast warrior for peace," the council said in a statement read by its current president, Canada's U.N. Ambassador Robert Fowler. "His prodigious and comprehensive understanding of his region and his willingness to take risks for peace helped to secure a brighter future for his people and hope for his entire region," the council said. "His presence both in words and deeds will be missed but not forgotten by the Security Council as it continues to work for peace and security in the Middle East," it said.

## U.N. postpones session to pay tribute

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The U.N. General Assembly postponed an emergency session on Israel's settlement policies to pay tribute to King Hussein, whose country had pressed for the debate. On Monday the Jordanians, Palestinians and Israelis were united in mourning the King. Calling the King's death a profound loss, Jordan's U.N. Ambassador Hassan Abu Nimah said he would leave a great void in the Middle East, especially in the area of peace-building. But he said His Majesty King Abdullah would continue Jordan's role in the region. Palestinian delegate Nasser Al Kidwa called the King "a visionary, a noble and courageous servant of the Arab people" who had been a fervent architect of peace. Echoing this view, Israel's U.N. Ambassador Dore Gold said the King had demonstrated how trust for leaders could be transferred to trust between peoples — and he said the trust between Israel and Jordan held lessons for Arab-Israeli relations.

## U.S. Senate honours King Hussein

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Senate, briefly breaking away from impeachment, Monday unanimously passed a resolution honouring "the life and legacy" of King Hussein and extending a hand of friendship to his son and successor His Majesty King Abdullah. The resolution, approved Monday evening after the Senate wrapped up the day's impeachment proceedings, praised King Hussein for instituting democratic reforms in Jordan and for having "established a model for Arab-Israeli coexistence in Jordan's ties with the State of Israel."

## Israel plans King Hussein memorials

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli authorities plan to mint a special medal and plant a forest in memory of King Hussein, officials said on Tuesday. The state coins and medals corporation said the State of Israel Memorial Medal paying tribute to King Hussein would bear a portrait of the Monarch on one side while the reverse would carry the flags of Israel and Jordan and the inscription "Peace for the Children of Abraham." The Jewish National Fund also announced that it was looking for a suitable spot to establish a forest in memory of King Hussein.

## Paris mayor plans King Hussein street

PARIS (AP) — Paris Mayor Jean Tiberi says he would like to see a city street named for the late King Hussein. A spokeswoman for the Paris city hall said Tuesday the mayor plans to submit the idea before the city council, which must give its approval. The family of the Jordanian leader who was buried on Monday, also must grant permission. The spokeswoman said renaming Paris streets is a lengthy, complex procedure that can take up to 10 years, but that special consideration is given to important world leaders.

# King Abdullah, Queen Noor receive mourners

By Ahmad Khatib

AMMAN — His Majesty King Abdullah yesterday received the condolences of thousands of Jordanian men, who came from across the country to express their sympathy over the passing of King Hussein.

Muslim and Christian clerics, tribal sheikhs, Circassian notables, elders from Palestinian refugee camps, businessmen, and teenagers

shook hands and kissed King Abdullah, many pausing for a moment to pledge their allegiance to the Monarch. A physically disabled man in a wheelchair carried a portrait of King Hussein as he offered his sympathies to the King. He was one of many disabled men who arrived at Raghada Palace, where the Royal Court is holding three days of condolences.

One of the people who

called at the palace, business-

man Sharif Said, said: "I went there to pay my respects for the leader who built the Kingdom. I owe him what I have achieved in this country."

Dressed in traditional black robes and white mourning headscarves, crowds of female mourners went to Zahrani Palace, home of the late Queen Zein Al Sharaf, to offer sympathy to Her Majesty Queen Noor and the Princesses, including King's

Muna. Verses from the Holy Koran filled the air.

The Queen, often comforting mourners herself, received women from the Jordan Armed Forces, bedouin women whose lives have been changed through her institutions, and hundreds of women there to offer her solace.

An endless line of women from every sector of Jordan's diverse society streamed through the Jabal Amman palace to pay tribute to their fallen King and embrace his widow Queen Noor.

On the streets of Amman, ordinary life has taken on a sombre face. Only a few food shops and pharmacies opened. Cars with small black flags hoisted on their windows passed residences and commercial buildings bearing the late King Hussein's photographs and black draped clothes.

The government announced a 40-day period of mourning and ordered its offices closed until Saturday. The Royal Court will observe a three-month mourning period for King Hussein, who died Sunday at the age of 63.

Although schools were closed, it was difficult to spot any children playing in squares or on the streets.

Embassies, hotels, banks, and other organisations across the capital flew their flags at half mast and hung black flags and banners from their buildings.

King Hussein was laid to rest Monday following a resplendent funeral cortege through the streets of Amman



His Majesty King Abdullah greets a man Tuesday during a general audience at the Raghada Palace in Amman (AP photo)

countries joined Jordanians in mourning King Hussein, who reigned for nearly half a century.

## Israeli settlers move into former army post in Golan Heights

### Netanyahu promises 'new peace accord' this year

RAMAT GAN (AFP) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hinted Tuesday that Israel could reach a peace agreement with Lebanon and Syria by the end of the year.

"I promise a new peace agreement before the year 2000," Netanyahu told reporters during a visit to the Diamond Exchange in Ramat Gan which came as he was in a tough campaign for reelection in May.

Netanyahu did not specify with whom Israel would sign the peace accord, but a close aide said he was referring to Syria and Lebanon.

In the same remarks, Netanyahu said "I would be pleased to renew negotiations with Syria and Lebanon at any time," but he did not repeat his reference to a timetable.

In an interview with a U.S. television network broadcast earlier Tuesday Netanyahu told of how during the funeral Monday for King Hussein he had been just "a few meters away" from Syrian President Hafez Assad, although the two did not speak.

"I think that after the elections, we'll sit together, one way or another, in the same tent," he said. "It doesn't depend only on me, but since I heard that same expression of hope coming from Syria, I'm eager to reciprocate it," he added.

to the settlement division of the World Zionist Organisation a few months ago for civilian use. The WZO is a subsidiary of the Jewish Agency, a quasi-governmental body that owns large tracts of land. Cohen said settlers would require government approval to turn Nimrod into a full-fledged settlement.

Zeria said one family has already moved into the for-

mer army buildings at Nimrod, and a dozen more are to settle there in the future, five within the next few weeks.

The WZO said in a statement that a family looking for a remote place to live has moved into the army post, but that "there is no intention to... turn it into a settlement because of its remote location and because of geographical problems."

## King receives condolences from Iranian president

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Abdullah Tuesday received a cable of condolences from Iranian President Mohammad Khatami, who expressed heartfelt sympathies in his name and on behalf of the government and people of Iran to the King, the Hashemite family and the people of Jordan.

President Khatami wished King Abdullah every happiness and success and the Jordanian people further progress and prosperity.

Also Tuesday, King Abdullah received at Raghada Palace Al Saifi Al Qadafi, son of Libyan President Muammar Qaddafi, who conveyed the heartfelt condolences of the Libyan leader, government and people. King Abdullah expressed appreciation to President Qaddafi and wished him continued good health and happiness.

King Abdullah received a telephone call from Lebanese President Emile Lahoud, who expressed his heartfelt condolences to King Abdullah over the passing of King Hussein. President Lahoud wished King Abdullah continued good health and happiness and the Jordanian people further progress and prosperity under King Abdullah's leadership.

The following countries, organisations and dignitaries also sent cables to the King: the heads of state of Iran, Morocco, Yemen, Kuwait, the Palestinian National Authority, Sharjah, Mauritania, Malaysia, Pakistan, Gambia, Armenia, Guinea, Ghana, North Korea, Guyana, Togo, Brazil, Poland, Cuba, Chile, Lithuania, China, Australia, Azerbaijan, Eritrea, Slovenia, Yugoslavia, Nepal, the Philippines, India, Bosnia, South Africa, Lesotho, the Czech Republic, Pope John Paul II, the president of the Higher Peoples Council of North Korea, the prime ministers of Lebanon, Pakistan, former Bulgarian prime ministers, the speaker of the Palestine National Council, Prince Akhito, the second son of the emperor of Japan, Cardinal Nasrallah Star of Antakya and the Orient, the secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the founder and leader of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), the leader of the Muslim Brotherhood movement in Egypt, and the president of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, which announced a week-long mourning period in the Kurdistan region of northern Iraq.

## Palestinians could delay state proclamation, official says

GAZA CITY (AFP) — The Palestinian leadership said for the first time Tuesday that it was "studying" a delay of a few weeks in proclaiming an independent state on May 4.

"We are studying an idea presented by friendly countries to delay by two or three weeks the proclamation of our independent state," the Palestinian Minister for International Cooperation

Nabil Shaath told a news conference.

Shaath, one of the main Palestinian negotiators, said the delay was being studied "for tactical reasons," chiefly so as not to influence the Israeli elections, being held on May 17.

Until now, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat had repeated several times that the original date was "sacrosanct." He has

refused to be drawn when asked whether he would agree to a delay, saying only that "everything is under discussion."

The United States, European Union and Egypt have attempted to persuade Arafat to put off his declaration, in order not to play into the hands of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Netanyahu has threatened to annex most of the West Bank

still remaining under Israeli control should Arafat carry out his plan.

Shaath said that the Palestinians "rejected pressure from friendly countries in favour of a delay in the proclamation of a state until the end of negotiations on the final status of the Palestinian territories."

Under the 1993 Oslo accord, the negotiations were timed to

end on May 4, but they have not yet started. The Palestinian position is that once the date has passed without agreement, the Oslo arrangements are no longer valid.

Shaath also said the Palestinians had the right to "declare a state in all the territories occupied by Israel in 1967, including east Jerusalem, without Israel's prior agreement."

## Ultra-Orthodox rabbis slam supreme court as anti-Semitic

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Ultra-Orthodox rabbis launched a scathing attack on Israel's supreme court Tuesday, branding it "anti-Semitic" and "undemocratic" for recent rulings in favour of religious pluralism.

Several leading rabbis called a press conference Tuesday to lambaste the high court and warn that its rulings could lead to a revolt by the ultra-Orthodox.

"The supreme court judges are antisemitic," charged Rabbi David Yousof, son of the spiritual leader of the powerful ultra-orthodox party Shas. Rabbi Ovadia Yousof.

The strictly Orthodox are furious with a number of recent high court rulings challenging the Orthodox rabbinate's monopoly over conversions to Judaism and other aspects of religious life in Israel.

Rabbi Moshe Gafni of the United Torah Judaism Party

told journalists: "The supreme court is destroying the very foundations of everything we believe in an undemocratic manner unmatched in any other Western country."

"Such institutions exist only in dark dictatorships," Gafni said. The rabbis, whose parties are members of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's ruling coalition, accused Chief Justice Aharon Barak of being a "left-winger" who was out to punish the ultra-Orthodox for backing the rightist government.

Netanyahu quickly called an impromptu press conference in his Jerusalem office to denounce the attack on the court system while at the same time calling for dialogue between the ultra-religious and secular in Israel. "The supreme court is the body in charge of enforcing the rule of law and we need to respect the institution and the judges," Netanyahu said.

"All sectors of society need to speak to each other. We need to overcome the differences of opinion and learn to respect a variety of opinions," he said.

Ranit Cohen of the opposition Labour Party announced that he had filed a complaint with the police against the rabbis for alleged incitement to violence against Barak and the other high court justices.

Cohen said their outburst was characteristic of the "undemocratic nature" of Netanyahu's government.

Attorney General Elyakim Rubinstein and State Prosecutor Edna Arbel issued a joint statement condemning the rabbis' remarks.

"We strongly object to this inappropriate attack on the judicial system and the use of such language, which borders on a criminal offence," they said.

But they have a disproportionate clout in Netanyahu's government because their parties provide a parliamentary swing vote which has allowed him to remain in power.

open not only to the Orthodox but also to representatives of the liberal Reform and Conservative currents of Judaism.

A lower court also recently authorised Reform rabbis to carry out conversions to Judaism in Israel — a right previously restricted to the Orthodox religious establishment.

Finally the high court ruled that exemptions from military service for Orthodox religious students were illegal. The ultra-Orthodox groups announced they would hold a major demonstration Sunday in Jerusalem to press their protests against the courts.

Ultra-Orthodox Jews make up only about seven per cent of Israel's Jewish population of five million.

But they have a disproportionate clout in Netanyahu's government because their parties provide a parliamentary swing vote which has allowed him to remain in power.

Bedouin Thiba Sadeq Al Hamoud mourns the death of King Hussein, after visiting Her Majesty Queen Noor during a general audience at the Royal Palace in Amman, Tuesday. Both Queen Noor and His Majesty King Abdullah were scheduled to hold audiences for ordinary Jordanians, the day after King Hussein's funeral (AP photo)



## Party list for elections boosts Netanyahu's prospects

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud Party on Tuesday handed him a present he didn't ask for — it chose Sephardic Jews and a woman as its top candidates for parliament.

Netanyahu's hand-picked elderly leadership team was pushed aside in voting by the Likud Central Committee, while newcomers and outspoken Netanyahu critics were given top spots on the Likud slate for the Knesset, Israel's parliament.

Silvan Shalom, 40, appointed a cabinet minister just last year, received the most votes, placing him second behind Netanyahu on the party election list.

Shalom was born in Tunisia and heads the list's strong representation of Sephardic Jews, whose family origins are in Arabic-speaking countries.

Sephardic Jews make up about half of Israel's popula-

tion. In the past, many Sephardic voters have chosen Likud and its hard-line policies toward Arabs over the more moderate Labour Party dominated by Ashkenazi Jews of European descent.

Likud lost its showcase Sephardic candidate when Yitzhak Mordechai, the top vote-getter in 1996 Likud primary elections, quit last month to lead a new centrist party against Netanyahu.

Sharon and Arens are both over 70 and of European background.

Following his surprise victory, Sharon called on Netanyahu to add him to the party leadership before the elections.

"Finishing first means the people want me at the top," he said.

Netanyahu's top ministers were the big losers. Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon was moved down to the seventh slot.

Moshe Arens, chosen by Netanyahu to replace Mordechai as defence minister last month, came in 25th.

Justice Minister Tsahi Hanegevi, known as Netanyahu's enforcer, expected to finish first instead, he took the sixth and 16th slots.

Analysts said the Sephardic flavour of the Likud list could blunt Mordechai's challenge.

Israelis vote with separate ballots for premier and parliament. The 120 seats in the parliament are divided among the parties in proportion to the number of votes each receives.

Mordechai's centrist party has not chosen its Knesset list.

Likud's traditional rival, Labour, is to pick its candidates in primary elections next week.

Labour has been trying to woo veteran Sephardic politician David Levy onto its team, to counter the challenge from Mordechai. The makeup of the new Likud list may add urgency to the quest for Levy's support. Levy was Netanyahu's first foreign minister, but quit a year ago amid disputes over policy.

Last month she considered leaving Likud. Women also took the sixth and 16th slots.

Analysts said the Sephardic flavour of the Likud list could blunt Mordechai's challenge.

Israelis vote with separate ballots for premier and parliament. The 120 seats in the parliament are divided among the parties in proportion to the number of votes each receives.

Mordechai's centrist party has not chosen its Knesset list.

Likud's traditional rival, Labour, is to pick its candidates in primary elections next week.

Labour has been trying to woo veteran Sephardic politician David Levy onto its team, to counter the challenge from Mordechai. The makeup of the new Likud list may add urgency to the quest for Levy's support. Levy was Netanyahu's first foreign minister, but quit a year ago amid disputes over policy.

PRIME MINISTER Jean Chretien says if he had a bit more warning he could have made the state funeral of King Hussein.

The prime minister returned to Ottawa from a ski trip to Whistler, British Columbia on Monday night and said he had expected Jordanian officials to give him 24 hours notice before the funeral.

He said that when he received 22 1/2 hours notice it was "physically impossible for me to be there in time."

Opposition critics and foreign affairs observers slammed Chretien for missing the most significant state funeral since that of Israel's peacemaking prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin, in 1995.

"Given that so many heads of state chose to go to the funeral, it's very likely, by comparison it does look as if Canada is giving the event rather less importance than many of the other countries involved," said Owen Greene, professor of peace studies at the University of Bradford, England.

Canada was represented at the funeral by Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy.

Reform leader Preston Manning said Chretien should have arrived late, rather than not at all.

"I think people would have understood the logistics problem if it caused some delay, but I don't think they'll accept that as a reason for not being there at all," said Manning, who called Chretien's absence an embarrassment for Canada.

The Canadian Arab Federation issued a release citing

its "deep anguish and frustration with the prime minister," calling his absence "a rebuff to 22 Arab countries and a slap in the face to the Arab Canadian community."

Meanwhile, Lebanese newspapers on Tuesday criticised the country's low-level representation at Monday's funeral of King Hussein and the failure of President Emile Lahoud to attend.

The Lebanese government was represented at the funeral, attended by more than 40 heads of state and government, by Deputy Prime Minister Michel Murr.

The independent newspaper Al Nahar said the Lebanese delegation to King Hussein's state funeral was the "lowest-ranking in the Arab World" and "that Lahoud's failure to attend was an 'indefensible' mistake."

Lahoud did visit the Jordanian embassy in Beirut on Tuesday to sign a book of condolences.

The pro-Syrian Al Sharq said the "absence of high-level representation from Lebanon has raised a number of questions."

Another pro-Syrian paper, Al Diyar, said a cooperation pact between Beirut and Damascus, the main power-broker in neighbouring Lebanon, "calls for Lebanon to be represented at the presidential level when Syria does so."

Albert Mukheiber a former Lebanese minister and MP, said King Hussein had been a long-time friend of Lebanon and that he "could not understand how President Lahoud decided that he did not need to deliver his condolences personally."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Union condemns visits to Israel

CAIRO (AP) — The Arab Journalists Union urged its members on Tuesday not to visit Israel and issued a warning that it would take action against such visits in the future. "We condemn such visits and the [general secretariat of] union will take a decisive action," said a statement by the Cairo-based group after a meeting of its leadership. The group, an umbrella organisation for national journalist syndicates, did not specify the actions it would take. It has made similar threats in the past, but has yet to impose discipline. Banishment from the union could force a journalist out of work.

### Israeli spies not to appeal Cypriot sentence

NICOSIA (AFP) — Two Israeli anti-terrorism agents serving three years in a Cypriot prison do not plan to appeal against their sentences but will seek a presidential pardon, their lawyers said Tuesday. Anti-Triantafyllides told reporters he had advised the two Israelis, who carried passports in the names of Igal Darmay, 49, and Udi Hargov, 37, not to appeal to the Supreme Court because they had "no chance of succeeding." He said his clients had accepted his advice although they believed the sentence handed down by a court in the coastal town of Larnaca was "severe."

### Belaid hopeful urges army neutrality

ALGIERS (R) — Former Algerian Prime Minister Abdessalam Belaid, a candidate for April's presidential election, has urged influential army generals to stay out of politics. "The army is an important institution but not a political one. Its duty is to safeguard the country's unity," Belaid said in an interview published by the Arabic-language Al Youm daily on Tuesday. "If the army slid into the political game then the situation would become dangerous to the army itself and to the nation as a whole," he said.

### S. African-Saudi arms deal suspended

CAPE TOWN (AP) — Saudi Arabia's "serious" financial problems have caused the oil-rich kingdom to delay purchasing \$1.5 billion in arms from South Africa, the country's defense minister said Tuesday. Last November, Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Abdullah negotiated South Africa's sale to Saudi Arabia of \$1.5 billion of artillery pieces and anti-aircraft missiles, according to diplomats.

### Kuwaiti, Russian discuss Iraq

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia's foreign minister expressed "deep concern" about the conflict in the Persian Gulf in talks with visiting Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad on Tuesday. Sheikh Sabah also discussed military cooperation with Russia during meetings in Moscow.

## Cyprus signs anti-aircraft missiles over to Greece

ATHENS (R) — Cyprus has formally signed over to Greece its controversial Russian S-300 missiles to be deployed on the island of Crete, a defence ministry official said on Tuesday.

He said details of the agreement, signed late on Monday by Greek Defence Minister Akis Tsohatzopoulos and his visiting Cypriot counterpart Yannakis Christoforidis, would

not be made available. Tsohatzopoulos told reporters before the private signing that the anti-aircraft missiles would be installed on Crete as part of the joint defence pact with Cyprus.

"Greece guarantees the security of Cyprus," he said. "This is the basis of all our efforts." It was not immediately clear whether Greece or Cyprus would be in charge of the defence

system but Greek media reported that it would be installed at the easternmost point of Crete. EU countries warned they were hurting Cyprus's accession process. Cyprus has been divided since Turkey invaded in 1974 after a coup in Nicosia engineered by the military junta then ruling Greece. A breakaway Turkish Cypriot state in the north is recognised only by Ankara, which keeps 30,000 troops there.

Third place went to Cabinet Minister Limor Livnat, despite rumours that Netanyahu wanted her left off the list because of their frequent clashes over policy.

Notable absentees:

Tsohatzopoulos told reporters before the private signing that the anti-aircraft missiles would be installed on Crete as part of the joint defence pact with Cyprus.

"Greece guarantees the security of Cyprus," he said. "This is the basis of all our efforts." It was not immediately clear whether Greece or Cyprus would be in charge of the defence

system but Greek media reported that it would be installed at the easternmost point of Crete. EU countries warned they were hurting Cyprus's accession process. Cyprus has been divided since Turkey invaded in 1974 after a coup in Nicosia engineered by the military junta then ruling Greece. A breakaway Turkish Cypriot state in the north is recognised only by Ankara, which keeps 30,000 troops there.

Third place went to Cabinet Minister Limor Livnat, despite rumours that Netanyahu wanted her left off the list because of their frequent clashes over policy.

Notable absentees:

Tsohatzopoulos told reporters before the private signing that the anti-aircraft missiles would be installed on Crete as part of the joint defence pact with Cyprus.

"Greece guarantees the security of Cyprus," he said. "This is the basis of all our efforts." It was not immediately clear whether Greece or Cyprus would be in charge of the defence

system but Greek media reported that it would be installed at the easternmost point of Crete. EU countries warned they were hurting Cyprus's accession process. Cyprus has been divided since Turkey invaded in 1974 after a coup in Nicosia engineered by the military junta then ruling Greece. A breakaway Turkish Cypriot state in the north is recognised only by Ankara, which keeps 30,000 troops there.

Third place went to Cabinet Minister Limor Livnat, despite rumours that Netanyahu wanted her left off the list because of their frequent clashes over policy.

Notable absentees:

Tsohatzopoulos told reporters before the private signing that the anti-aircraft missiles would be installed on Crete as part of the joint defence pact with Cyprus.

"Greece guarantees the security of Cyprus," he said. "This is the basis of all our efforts." It was not immediately clear whether Greece or Cyprus would be in charge of the defence

system but Greek media reported that it would be installed at the easternmost point of Crete. EU countries warned they were hurting Cyprus's accession process. Cyprus has been divided since Turkey invaded in 1974 after a coup in Nicosia engineered by the military junta then ruling Greece. A breakaway Turkish Cypriot state in the north is recognised only by Ankara, which keeps 30,000 troops there.

Third place went to Cabinet Minister Limor Livnat, despite rumours that Netanyahu wanted her left off the list because of their frequent clashes over policy.

Notable absentees:

Tsohatzopoulos told reporters before the private signing that the anti-aircraft missiles would be installed on Crete as part of the joint defence pact with Cyprus.

"Greece guarantees the security of Cyprus," he said. "This is the basis of all our efforts." It was not immediately clear whether Greece or Cyprus would be in charge of the defence

system but Greek media reported that it would be installed at the easternmost point of Crete. EU countries warned they were hurting Cyprus's accession process. Cyprus has been divided since Turkey invaded in 1974 after a coup in Nicosia engineered by the military junta then ruling Greece. A breakaway Turkish Cypriot state in the north is recognised only by Ankara, which keeps 30,000 troops there.

Third place went to Cabinet Minister Limor Livnat, despite rumours that Netanyahu wanted her left off the list because of their frequent clashes over policy.

Notable absentees:

Tsohatzopoulos told reporters before the private signing that the anti-aircraft missiles would be installed on Crete as part of the joint defence pact with Cyprus.

"Greece guarantees the security of Cyprus," he said. "This is the basis of all our efforts." It was not immediately clear whether Greece or Cyprus would be in charge of the defence

system but Greek media reported that it would be installed at the easternmost point of Crete. EU countries warned they were hurting Cyprus's accession process. Cyprus has been divided since Turkey invaded in 1974 after a coup in Nicosia engineered by the military junta then ruling Greece. A breakaway Turkish Cypriot state in the north is recognised only by Ankara, which keeps 30,000 troops there.

Third place went to Cabinet Minister Limor Livnat, despite rumours that Netanyahu wanted her left off the list because of their frequent clashes over policy.

Notable absentees:

Tsohatzopoulos told reporters before the private signing that the anti-aircraft missiles would be installed on Crete as part of the joint defence pact with Cyprus.

"Greece guarantees the security of Cyprus," he said. "This is the basis of all our efforts." It was not immediately clear whether Greece or Cyprus would be in charge of the defence

system but Greek media reported that it would be installed at the easternmost point of Crete. EU countries warned they were hurting Cyprus's accession process. Cyprus has been divided since Turkey invaded in 1974 after a coup in Nicosia engineered by the military junta then ruling Greece. A breakaway Turkish Cypriot state in the north is recognised only by Ankara, which keeps 30,000 troops there.

&lt;p

## King Abdullah receives pledges of allegiance from Jordanian leaders

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein Tuesday received a cable from the director of the General Intelligence Department (GID) Samih Battikhi in which he expressed the allegiance of the GID's personnel to the Hashemite Throne.

"Officers at the GID have dedicated their life and work to the defence of the Hashemite leadership and the nation, working as loyal soldiers, upholding the Hashemite standards under your leadership," said Battikhi.

"We pledge loyalty and vow to follow in the footsteps of the free Jordanians who rallied behind the



founder of the Kingdom and the late King Hussein," added Battikhi.

A similar cable came from the director of the Public Security Department Nasouh Muhiuddin.

"We are honoured to

renew our allegiance to Your Majesty, pledging before God and Your Majesty to remain faithful soldiers to the Hashemite Throne, wishing you success in pursuing the leadership of this country following in the footsteps of the late King Hussein," said Muhiuddin.

The commander of the Palestine Liberation Army Brigadier Faisal Fahoun sent a cable to King Abdullah expressing condolences on the passing of the late King Hussein and paying tribute to his achievements and sacrifices to his nation.

He said in the cable the Palestinian people share with Jordanians their grief

and expressed hope that God will bestow upon King Abdullah the strength and power to fulfil his mission.

King Abdullah received a cable from Hamdi Tabbaa, Chairman of Jordanian Businessmen Association, in which he expressed the association's heartfelt condolences on the passing of King Hussein and congratulated King Abdullah on acceding to the Throne.

In his cables, Tabbaa said King Hussein has planted in the hearts of the Jordanian people determination and pride with which to confront the challenges of the coming days.

## Saudi Arabia to resume economic aid to Jordan, Ammari to attend follow-up talks soon

AMMAN (Petra) — Saudi Arabia Monday announced it will resume its economic aid to Jordan and said the two sides will hold talks soon to finalise plans in this respect.

"Saudi Arabia has provided aid to Jordan in the past and it intends to continue to provide such assistance to the Kingdom," said Saudi Minister of Finance and National Economy Ibrahim Assaf.

The Saudi minister, who spoke to Jordan Television after meeting Prime Minister Fayed Tarawneh and Minister of Finance Michel Marto, reaffirmed that his country will

resume its aid to Jordan "in a genuine manifestation of its keenness to deepen brotherly ties between the two countries.

Assaf reviewed with Tarawneh scopes for bolstering economic ties during a meeting held at the Prime Ministry in the presence of Marto and Saudi Arabian Ambassador to Jordan Abdullah Sudeiri.

Assaf presented his condolences to the Jordanian government on the passing of King Hussein and lauded the King's achievements and historic stands.

He said that his meeting with the prime minister

presented an opportunity to review economic relations noting that the discussions covered different aspects of economic cooperation which Assaf said he plans to discuss with the Jordanian ministers of finance and planning soon.

For his part, Marto announced that he and Minister of Planning Nabil Ammari will pay a visit soon to Saudi Arabia to follow up on the talks on economic cooperation.

Saudi Arabia's pledge to offer aid to Jordan followed close on the heels of a visit to Jordan by Saudi Crown Prince

Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz who attended the funeral of King Hussein and who sent a cable to His Majesty King Abdullah pledging support for Jordan.

"Saudi Arabia will firmly stand by you and support you in good and bad times and will use its resources to help Jordan," Prince Abdullah said.

Prince Abdullah voiced his country's support for Jordan and confidence in King Abdullah's ability to lead the nation and said relations between Jordan and Saudi Arabia are stronger than words can describe.

## Al Majd's Rimawi released on bail

AMMAN (J.T.) — Fahed Rimawi, the editor of Al Majd weekly, was freed on bail pending his trial next week, he said Tuesday.

Rimawi was charged for insulting the monarch, publishing false information about the prime minister and members of the government and attacking the security services.

Rimawi earlier last week was given a 15-day sentence in Jweidah prison after the Press and Publication Department

moved against him.

Rimawi wrote in last week's edition of the paper that HRH Prince Hassan — who was removed as heir to the Throne by King Hussein last month — laid his revolver down in front of King Hussein and asked to be shot if the King believed he was a traitor.

In previous issues, Rimawi had called for the prime minister and his Cabinet to resign.

According to Article 37,

newly implemented Press and Publications Law of 1998, a publication cannot publish anything that disparages the King or Royal Family members.

Paragraph two of the same article prohibits any publication of any news, views or information that might violate national security. Paragraph nine of the same article stipulates that no publication may publish wrong information or rumours.

According to Al Majd newspaper, Rimawi was

also arrested for an article published earlier by the critical magazine on the Syrian elections.

Qattan, director of the Press and Publications Department, said the attorney general also charges Rimawi for showing loyalty to another country and leader.

According to a source from the newspaper, those cases are the first charges made against the newspaper.

## Orphans mourn champion of their cause

By Dana Charkasi

AMMAN — More than 200 grief-stricken orphans living in King Hussein's former palace on Tuesday spoke with pain about having to come to grips with the death of a man who adopted their cause.

"I lost my father, he was like a real father to me," sobbed Ula, 12, as she paid tribute to the late King who, in 1997, donated his Hashemiyah Palace in Hummar as a home for the orphanage after learning of appalling living conditions at the former Al Hussein Institute during a visit.

There are 230 children, from four months to 14-year old, in the Dar Al Bir — as the orphanage was renamed.

Set high on a hill with

pine trees and shrubs all around, the orphanage overlooks the Jordan Valley and the northern tip of the Dead Sea. But the tranquillity of the grounds and the cheerfulness of the children and staff was painfully broken with the news of King Hussein's passing on Sunday.

In a room with around 30 children sitting quietly, two young girls in Islamic dress sat reciting the Holy Koran.

"First, when we heard that His Majesty's health was critical, all the children and employees were very worried," said Tayseer Elias, the orphanage director.

"The mood now [after he passed away] is very sad. Some of the substitute mothers fainted when they heard the sorrowful news."

The children were shat-

tered upon hearing that King Hussein had died.

"We had to carry many of the children out of their school buses as they were unable to walk by themselves because of the heavy pain they felt," said one of the nurses at Dar Al Bir.

"Ula had such shock that she couldn't move or speak for three hours," said Elias, a psychologist who earned his PhD at an American university.

"Most of the children cried all the day and the following night. Many children refused to eat, and their plates went back to the kitchen untouched," a nurse said.

"When I saw a girlfriend crying heavily, I also had to cry," said Yazan, a six-year-old boy.

"We explained to the children that, as Muslims,

we have to accept the fact of death, and we encouraged them to read the Holy Koran," Elias added.

Some of the children asked Elias if they could visit the grave of King Hussein and pay their condolences to HRH Princess Zein Al Hussein, who is patron of Dar Al Bir.

"The kids felt very secure here at Dar Al Bir, they felt that King Hussein was there. We reassure them and say, 'we have Princess Zein and King Abdullah, they will take care of you,'" he said.

"On the day when King Hussein returned to Jordan from the clinic in America, we all went to Dar Al Salam to welcome him back. We were so happy to have him back," Ula added.

## Parents of girl killed by Jordanian soldier name newborn in honour of King Hussein

By Sari Bashi  
Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM — Nearly two years ago, Shimon and Ruhama Cohen's lives were shattered when a Jordanian soldier gunned down their daughter and six of her classmates on the Israel-Jordan border.

"We see this as something that connects us to the event, the tragedy that happened, to our sorrow, and also to the King," said Mrs. Cohen in an interview at her hospital bed.

"We wanted to repay our thanks to him and the

recognition that he showed us."

As King Hussein lay critically ill hours before his death, Mrs. Cohen gave birth to the baby girl at Jerusalem's Hadassah Hospital Saturday. The King died Sunday after a long battle with cancer.

King Hussein visited each family in their homes during the Jewish morning period — a move Israelis saw as a true act of friendship and peace.

"(King Hussein) took it very hard that such a terri-

ble murder happened and that he couldn't offer help and that it happened at the hands of one of his countrymen. He took that great responsibility upon himself and we appreciated this great gesture," said Mrs. Cohen, holding baby Jordan wrapped in pink in her lap.

"He kneeled in front of us, really kneeled, and he cried, he shed a tear. It hurt him very much," she recalled.

## International media descends on Amman to cover news of King Hussein, Jordan

By a Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's 26-year-old InterContinental Hotel has once again become the Mecca of foreign media that converged here to follow His Majesty King Hussein's medical conditions and to report on the difficult moments that the country is experiencing.

"At the moment we have around 200 journalists," said yesterday front desk manager George Badadneh, hardly able to speak between a telephone call and guests to attend.

The "Intercon" — as it is better known in the media lingo — established itself as a meeting point for journalists dur-

ing the 1990 Gulf crisis. But correspondents who have become familiar with Amman through the years agree that the flow of journalists who poured in during the past few days is unprecedented.

"At the moment we have around 200 journalists," said yesterday front desk manager George Badadneh, hardly able to speak between a telephone call and guests to attend.

A total of 450 media representatives are esti-

mated to be in the country at the moment, but many more are expected to come as the whole world looks concerned at the critical conditions of King Hussein.

"Overboard is the least we can say," Badadneh said.

However, the Intercon could soon lose its quasi-monopoly of foreign media, as many who could not find rooms there turned to the newly-opened Grand Hyatt, conveniently located only a

few hundred metres away from the Intercon, between the Second and Third Circles.

"We only opened four weeks ago, but we already have around 100 journalists," said assistant director of food and beverage John Aschan.

The Grand Hyatt has also set up facilities for journalists, and it is currently hosting the European Broadcasting Union, with live uplinks and satellite feed facilities.

## Minnesota residents remember King Hussein's common touch

**With His Majesty King Hussein's death, he is being remembered as a smiling, gracious man who seemed more of a friend to the people of Minnesota than the leader of a faraway Kingdom, writes Jill Burcum of the Minneapolis Star Tribune**

ROCHESTER, MINN. — In Jordan, His Majesty King Hussein was always a people's King. That didn't change when he came to Minnesota.

Right from his first visit to the Mayo Clinic in 1992, Hussein became one of its most accessible and visible VIPs, chatting with clerks in nearby shops and venturing out to the area's towns. Without question, he also was one of the most popular. Nearly everyone it seems in Rochester can recall with enthusiasm the times they caught glimpse of the King.

Now, with King Hussein's death, he is being remembered as a smiling, gracious man who seemed more of a friend than the leader of a faraway Kingdom.

"I think people here really feel like they knew him," said Leisha Beck-

strom, a Kasson, Minn., woman who works in Rochester. "He just seemed like such a down-to-earth guy."

### VIP clinic

The first time King Hussein's souped-up Lockheed L-1011 landed in Rochester, he came to be treated for cancer of the kidney. Since then, he had come back about once a year for checkups. His lengthiest stay was probably last year, when he made Rochester his home base for months while he underwent treatment for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, a cancer of the lymphatic system. The cancer killed him early Sunday.

Although the King missed his home, said Marwan Muasher, Jordanian ambassador to Washington, D.C., he viewed the stay in Rochester as a chance to get to know the area and its people better.

The King liked to visit places and talk to people. He was very approachable, Muasher said. "It was one of the qualities that endeared him to the people of Jordan."

It's also why the people of Rochester viewed him as one of the city's own, said Mayor Chuck Canfield. "He'd been a great friend to the community."

Mayo has been the clinic of choice not only for the King of Jordan — a polygon that lies between Iraq and Israel — but also for many people from the Middle East, including much of its royalty. Mayo generally reveals little about its famous visitors, but it's common knowledge in Rochester that top-ranking leaders from Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and the region's other oil-rich nations are patients.

Unlike dignitaries who often limit themselves to meeting others in important posts, Hussein seemed to delight in meeting everyday citizens. At the Barnes & Noble bookstore,

through which he often liked to stroll, he seemed less interested in books than in talking to the clerks, said Pat Ward, a store manager.

Most of the clerks had met or at least seen the King, he said. Ward himself was setting up a display one day last summer when he saw the suits worn by King Hussein's security guards flash by. Then, King Hussein himself was standing in front of Ward.

"He introduced himself, asked how we were and said it was nice to be here," Ward said. "He seemed a little bit lonely. I think he enjoyed getting out to socialise more than shop."

Doctors also cleared Hussein for several-day trips outside Rochester. Although he never visited the Twin Cities, according to Muasher, he enjoyed driving around southeastern Minnesota.

One place he enjoyed in particular was the Harborview restaurant in Pepin, Wis., which is across the Mississippi River and slightly to the south of Lake City, Minn.

Owner Tom Ahlstrom said the King ate there about five times last summer, becoming in Ahlstrom's eyes a "regular customer."

Ahlstrom said the King liked to sit and watch the river flow by and enjoyed the fall foliage. Often, King Hussein had some privacy at the restaurant because many customers didn't recognise him, Ahlstrom said.

One customer who did was a 10-year-old girl who was a cancer patient at Mayo. After spotting the King, the girl came to Ahlstrom and asked if she could get Hussein's autograph. Ahlstrom relayed the request to the King's security people. Before he and Her Majesty Queen Noor left, they not only gave the girl an autograph but also talked with her for several minutes.

"He was very gracious," said Ahlstrom, who counted himself

among Hussein's admirers. "It was humbling to have someone like the King here."

One of the King's more publicised trips took him last September to Harmony, a small town close to the Iowa border.

According to Evelyn Hingsberger, who works as a local tour guide, King Hussein wanted to see the nearby Amish farms.

He and Queen Noor showed up in a new silver Volkswagen Beetle. They followed Hingsberger as she directed a two-hour tour of the countryside, stopping at an Amish bakery and then at a goat ranch run by Ada Austin of Harmony.

Foreign dignitaries who visit the

ranch are often aloof or even rude, Austin said.

"Some of them can make you feel like you're just an old goat woman," King Hussein was different. He even helped Austin bottle-feed a baby goat. "He made me feel like I was doing something important," she said.

Congenial customer

Ties between King Hussein and the people of southeast Minnesota were also forged in other ways. Like other

patients, the King needed transportation, hotel rooms, food and other services. Many came to know him by assisting him or those accompanying him. As with those he met simply out of friendliness, he won the hearts of those whose job was to take care of him.

Clemens Chevrolet in Rochester provided most of the limousines for his entourage, said Denny Broughton, who manages the dealership's limousine service. Over time, Clemens employees came to view Hussein's group as more than clients.

## France, Britain step up pressure on Kosovo talks

**RAMBOUILLET.** France (R) — France and Britain, co-sponsors of tough negotiations on peace in Kosovo, stepped up the pressure on Serbian and ethnic Albanian negotiators Tuesday by calling them to account for progress made so far.

Foreign Ministers Hubert Vedrine and Robin Cook scheduled separate meetings with each delegation later Tuesday to add their weight to the search for a settlement.

The news sparked speculation in Ramboillet, a peaceful town southwest of Paris where the talks are being held in a 14th century chateau, that there could be an early snag in the talks, but a spokesman insisted the visit had been planned in advance.

"Their visit emphasises the full political weight the co-hosts are throwing behind these talks," said Charles Hay, a British Foreign Office spokesman.

The two ministers have made no secret of the fact the three diplomats mediating the closed-door talks face an uphill battle to secure an accord within a two-week deadline.

## ION DE RAMBOUILLET



Special Western envoy Christopher Hill from the United States (centre), Boris Maiorski of Russia (left) and Austrian Wolfgang Peritsch from the European Union give a press conference at Ramboillet. The talks are instigated by the Western powers and set to hammer out a peace plan between the Serbs and ethnic Albanians over the disputed province of Kosovo. Hill said that the talks were "tough, but making progress" (Reuters photo)

Ramboillet in the first place, delegates said. The mediators have rejected the request.

Some delegates reported the Albanians also wanted NATO to be a signatory to the deal, but others denied this. There is no NATO representative at these talks, in contrast to the 1995 Bosnia in peace negotiations in Dayton.

Another unclear point is whether Belgrade will demand a separate autonomy status for the small Serbian minority in Kosovo if the ethnic Albanians — who make up 90 per cent of the population there — win wide-ranging self-government.

The conflict in Kosovo, which erupted into open violence almost a year ago, has cost more than 2,000 lives.

Diplomatic sources said it was highly likely that foreign ministers from the Contact Group, comprising the United States, France, Britain, Germany, Russia and Italy, would descend on Ramboillet at the weekend to see how the talks were going.

The Contact Group wants a three-year interim period of autonomy for the Albanian-majority province, maintenance of Serbian territorial integrity and clearly defined safeguards for all the ethnic groups in Kosovo.

The Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), which is represented at Ramboillet, wants independence for the province.

## Protestant splinter group claims N. Ireland pub attack

**BELFAST (AFP).** A Protestant militia Tuesday claimed responsibility for a blast that damaged a pub in Castledawson, Northern Ireland.

None of the eight people inside the pub were injured when the bomb went off Monday just after 10:00 p.m. (2100 GMT). The explosive device bounced off bullet-proof windows and damaged the building's front.

The Orange Volunteers, a loyalist splinter group opposing the Northern Ireland peace process, claimed responsibility and vowed to carry out further attacks.

The attack against the pub

"We were very lucky," the bar's owner Francis McNally said. "Three long-distance lorry drivers from Turkey were sitting right by the window where the device exploded and they were certainly very lucky," he added.

McNally is a former official of Sinn Fein, the Irish Republican Army's (IRA) political wing.

The region around Castledawson, part of Sinn Fein deputy chief Martin McGuinness's constituency, has already been hit three times this year in attacks aimed at the Catholic community.

The level of such attacks has remained high despite the ceasefires which all the main Protestant and Catholic militias signed up to last year as part of the historic April 10 peace accord.

The attack against the pub

## Lawyers for anti-apartheid activist finish fraud defence

**CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP).** Defence lawyers in the fraud trial of former top African National Congress official Allan Boesak completed their case Tuesday after calling just one witness.

A former minister who once headed the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, Boesak is accused of taking more than one million rand (\$300,000 at the time) from the Foundation for Peace and Justice charity he headed.

Donations came from pop singer Paul Simon, Scandinavian aid agencies and other individuals and groups.

Auditor Robert Cameron-Ellis testified for the defence that the charity's accounts were vague and incomplete, making the prosecution's

evidence about embezzlement difficult to verify.

Boesak's lawyer, Mike Maritz, has argued that money withdrawn was in the form of legitimate allowances and expenses.

The blame for stolen cash was put on Freddie Steenkamp, Boesak's ex-bookkeeper who is serving six years in jail.

Steenkamp dealt the prosecution case a major blow last year when he withdrew statements implicating Boesak, saying he had lied because of a grudge against his former boss.

Judge John Foxcroft postponed the case until Feb. 22 when both sides will sum up their arguments.

Boesak played a prominent role in the anti-apartheid struggle that ended in the country's first all-race elections in 1994.

Boesak himself did not

testify. Smiling broadly and saying he was "very happy" with his defence, Boesak told the Associated Press he did not feel it was necessary to take the stand.

"If you look at the state's case and the absolute paucity of evidence, it was not necessary for me to try and respond to any of the allegations," he said.

The brevity of the defence contrasted sharply with the lengthy prosecution case, which called dozens of witnesses and lasted several months.

Judge John Foxcroft postponed the case until Feb. 22 when both sides will sum up their arguments.

Boesak played a prominent role in the anti-apartheid struggle that ended in the country's first all-race elections in 1994.

Boesak himself did not

testify. Smiling broadly and saying he was "very happy" with his defence, Boesak told the Associated Press he did not feel it was necessary to take the stand.

"If you look at the state's case and the absolute paucity of evidence, it was not necessary for me to try and respond to any of the allegations," he said.

The brevity of the defence contrasted sharply with the lengthy prosecution case, which called dozens of witnesses and lasted several months.

Judge John Foxcroft postponed the case until Feb. 22 when both sides will sum up their arguments.

Boesak played a prominent role in the anti-apartheid struggle that ended in the country's first all-race elections in 1994.

Boesak himself did not

testify. Smiling broadly and saying he was "very happy" with his defence, Boesak told the Associated Press he did not feel it was necessary to take the stand.

"If you look at the state's case and the absolute paucity of evidence, it was not necessary for me to try and respond to any of the allegations," he said.

The brevity of the defence contrasted sharply with the lengthy prosecution case, which called dozens of witnesses and lasted several months.

Judge John Foxcroft postponed the case until Feb. 22 when both sides will sum up their arguments.

Boesak played a prominent role in the anti-apartheid struggle that ended in the country's first all-race elections in 1994.

Boesak himself did not

testify. Smiling broadly and saying he was "very happy" with his defence, Boesak told the Associated Press he did not feel it was necessary to take the stand.

"If you look at the state's case and the absolute paucity of evidence, it was not necessary for me to try and respond to any of the allegations," he said.

The brevity of the defence contrasted sharply with the lengthy prosecution case, which called dozens of witnesses and lasted several months.

Judge John Foxcroft postponed the case until Feb. 22 when both sides will sum up their arguments.

Boesak played a prominent role in the anti-apartheid struggle that ended in the country's first all-race elections in 1994.

Boesak himself did not

testify. Smiling broadly and saying he was "very happy" with his defence, Boesak told the Associated Press he did not feel it was necessary to take the stand.

"If you look at the state's case and the absolute paucity of evidence, it was not necessary for me to try and respond to any of the allegations," he said.

The brevity of the defence contrasted sharply with the lengthy prosecution case, which called dozens of witnesses and lasted several months.

Judge John Foxcroft postponed the case until Feb. 22 when both sides will sum up their arguments.

Boesak played a prominent role in the anti-apartheid struggle that ended in the country's first all-race elections in 1994.

Boesak himself did not

testify. Smiling broadly and saying he was "very happy" with his defence, Boesak told the Associated Press he did not feel it was necessary to take the stand.

"If you look at the state's case and the absolute paucity of evidence, it was not necessary for me to try and respond to any of the allegations," he said.

The brevity of the defence contrasted sharply with the lengthy prosecution case, which called dozens of witnesses and lasted several months.

Judge John Foxcroft postponed the case until Feb. 22 when both sides will sum up their arguments.

Boesak played a prominent role in the anti-apartheid struggle that ended in the country's first all-race elections in 1994.

Boesak himself did not

testify. Smiling broadly and saying he was "very happy" with his defence, Boesak told the Associated Press he did not feel it was necessary to take the stand.

"If you look at the state's case and the absolute paucity of evidence, it was not necessary for me to try and respond to any of the allegations," he said.

The brevity of the defence contrasted sharply with the lengthy prosecution case, which called dozens of witnesses and lasted several months.

Judge John Foxcroft postponed the case until Feb. 22 when both sides will sum up their arguments.

Boesak played a prominent role in the anti-apartheid struggle that ended in the country's first all-race elections in 1994.

Boesak himself did not

testify. Smiling broadly and saying he was "very happy" with his defence, Boesak told the Associated Press he did not feel it was necessary to take the stand.

"If you look at the state's case and the absolute paucity of evidence, it was not necessary for me to try and respond to any of the allegations," he said.

The brevity of the defence contrasted sharply with the lengthy prosecution case, which called dozens of witnesses and lasted several months.

Judge John Foxcroft postponed the case until Feb. 22 when both sides will sum up their arguments.

Boesak played a prominent role in the anti-apartheid struggle that ended in the country's first all-race elections in 1994.

Boesak himself did not

testify. Smiling broadly and saying he was "very happy" with his defence, Boesak told the Associated Press he did not feel it was necessary to take the stand.

"If you look at the state's case and the absolute paucity of evidence, it was not necessary for me to try and respond to any of the allegations," he said.

The brevity of the defence contrasted sharply with the lengthy prosecution case, which called dozens of witnesses and lasted several months.

Judge John Foxcroft postponed the case until Feb. 22 when both sides will sum up their arguments.

Boesak played a prominent role in the anti-apartheid struggle that ended in the country's first all-race elections in 1994.

Boesak himself did not

testify. Smiling broadly and saying he was "very happy" with his defence, Boesak told the Associated Press he did not feel it was necessary to take the stand.

"If you look at the state's case and the absolute paucity of evidence, it was not necessary for me to try and respond to any of the allegations," he said.

The brevity of the defence contrasted sharply with the lengthy prosecution case, which called dozens of witnesses and lasted several months.

Judge John Foxcroft postponed the case until Feb. 22 when both sides will sum up their arguments.

Boesak played a prominent role in the anti-apartheid struggle that ended in the country's first all-race elections in 1994.

Boesak himself did not

testify. Smiling broadly and saying he was "very happy" with his defence, Boesak told the Associated Press he did not feel it was necessary to take the stand.

"If you look at the state's case and the absolute paucity of evidence, it was not necessary for me to try and respond to any of the allegations," he said.

The brevity of the defence contrasted sharply with the lengthy prosecution case, which called dozens of witnesses and lasted several months.

Judge John Foxcroft postponed the case until Feb. 22 when both sides will sum up their arguments.

Boesak played a prominent role in the anti-apartheid struggle that ended in the country's first all-race elections in 1994.

Boesak himself did not

testify. Smiling broadly and saying he was "very happy" with his defence, Boesak told the Associated Press he did not feel it was necessary to take the stand.

"If you look at the state's case and the absolute paucity of evidence, it was not necessary for me to try and respond to any of the allegations," he said.

The brevity of the defence contrasted sharply with the lengthy prosecution case, which called dozens of witnesses and lasted several months.

Judge John Foxcroft postponed the case until Feb. 22 when both sides will sum up their arguments.

Boesak played a prominent role in the anti-apartheid struggle that ended in the country's first all-race elections in 1994.

Boesak himself did not

testify. Smiling broadly and saying he was "very happy" with his defence, Boesak told the Associated Press he did not feel it was necessary to take the stand.

"If you look at the state's case and the absolute paucity of evidence, it was not necessary for me to try and respond to any of the allegations," he said.

The brevity of the defence contrasted sharply with the lengthy prosecution case, which called dozens of witnesses and lasted several months.

Judge John Foxcroft postponed the case until Feb. 22 when both sides will sum up their arguments.

Boesak played a prominent role in the anti-apartheid struggle that ended in the country's first all-race elections in 1994.

Boesak himself did not

testify. Smiling broadly and saying he was "very happy" with his defence, Boesak told the Associated Press he did not feel it was necessary to take the stand.

"If you look at the state's case and the absolute paucity of evidence, it was not necessary for me to try and respond to any of the allegations," he said.

The brevity of the defence contrasted sharply with the lengthy prosecution case, which called dozens of witnesses and lasted several months.

Judge John Foxcroft postponed the case until Feb. 22 when both sides will sum up their arguments.

Boesak played a prominent role in the anti-apartheid struggle that ended in the country's first all-race elections in 1994.

Boesak himself did not

testify. Smiling broadly and saying he was "very happy" with his defence, Boesak told the Associated Press he did not feel it was necessary to take the stand.

"If you look at the state's case and the absolute paucity of evidence, it was not necessary for me to try and respond to any of the allegations," he said.

The brevity of the defence contrasted sharply with the lengthy prosecution case, which called dozens of witnesses and lasted several months.



The sky over one of Leipzig's garbage depots is filled with thousands of hungry crows who have flown from north Russia and neighbouring Baltic countries for better food prospects in the bitter winter. While they flock to the big cities for morsels, the crows that normally inhabit central Europe countries head further south for presumably richer pickings (AFP photo)

## Indian state leader quits over attacks on Christians

**NEW DELHI (AFP)** — The chief minister of India's Orissa state announced Tuesday he had resigned over anti-Christian violence, including the brutal murder of an Australian missionary.

Jayanti Ballabh Patnaik told reporters in his home state that he had submitted his resignation to Congress Party President Sonia Gandhi in New Delhi Monday.

Patnaik, a Hindu, heads the Congress administration in the eastern state.

"It is for Gandhi to take a decision on the resignation," the United News of India (UNI) quoted him as saying.

A visibly-upset Patnaik

did not answer further questions, UNI said. It was not clear if the resignation had also been sent to the governor of Orissa — a constitutional requirement.

The Congress, India's main opposition party but which rules some states, confirmed the development.

"He has put in his papers and left it to Gandhi to take a decision," Congress general secretary Madhavrao Scindia said in New Delhi. "Within a couple of days, we will get to know more on the development."

"Patnaik has resigned in the exemplary spirit of owning moral responsibility."

Orissa was the site of

the gruesome killings on Jan. 22 of Australian missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons — burned to death in their car by a Hindu mob.

Last week, a Catholic nun in Orissa was allegedly raped after she was offered a ride in a taxi by two men, while two young Christian tribals were murdered Sunday.

The Orissa incidents followed a wave of arson attacks on churches and missionary schools in the western state of Gujarat over Christmas.

Church leaders have complained of an organised campaign of violence against their tiny community and accused

the ruling Hindu nationalists of appeasing the militants behind the attacks.

Hindus form about 83 per cent of India's 975 million population. Muslims make up around 15 per cent, while Christians account for a little more than two per cent.

Newspapers reported earlier that Patnaik had submitted his resignation to Gandhi after she reportedly told him that the attacks on Christians in Orissa had made his position untenable.

The Indian Express said Gandhi's decision was the "most drastic" since she became president of the Congress in April last year.

## 3 former ministers stand trial in saga of AIDS-tainted blood

**PARIS (AP)** — Former Prime Minister Laurent Fabius appeared before a French court Tuesday on the opening day of the trial of three ex-ministers linked to a scandal involving the use of AIDS-tainted blood in transfusions.

Wearing a dark grey suit and black tie, a sombre-looking Fabius — a former prime minister and current speaker of parliament — entered the courtroom accompanied by his lawyers.

Fabius, former Health Minister Edmond Hervé and former Social Affairs Minister Georgina Dufour were all to appear before the special court, the first time since World War II that government ministers are being tried for their official acts.

The three are charged with having a role in the deaths of five people from AIDS and the infection of two others in 1985.

Before the trial's opening, representatives of people who have contracted AIDS from transfusions gathered outside the courtroom.

"The rules of the trial are completely unfair," said Olivier

Duplessis, president of the French Association of Transfusion Victims, who complained that families of victims could not take part in the proceedings.

The president of the French Association of Haemophiliacs, Edmond-Luc Henri, said he felt "serene" as the trial was about to begin.

"It is not a political trial, but the search for responsibility of men and women who happened to be ministers at the time," Henri told reporters.

Nearly 4,000 people in France contracted AIDS from transfusions in the early 1980s. An experts' report in 1991 showed that about 300 contaminations were "avoidable."

Four health officials already have been convicted in previous trials. This is the first time the courts will judge the accountability of top government officials.

The three are to stand before a special Court of Justice of the Republic that judges officials for crimes committed in office.

Three judges and 12 legislators are sitting in judgment of the ministers in a trial expected to last a

minimum of three weeks.

The three, all served under Socialist President Francois Mitterrand from 1984-86, when AIDS was surfacing as a modern-day plague.

All three, and Fabius in particular, are charged with employing a "strategy of favouritism" that delayed systematic testing for AIDS, using an American-made test until a French test was ready.

The American test, manufactured by Abbott Laboratories, was available in March 1985. But it was not until Aug. 1, 1985 that systematic testing of blood donors went into effect in France — on Fabius' orders — using a French test by Diagnostics Pasteur.

The defendants say they never knowingly approved the use of contaminated blood products in transfusions.

"In my soul and conscience, in the deepest part of my being and before God, I do not feel guilty," Dufour has said.

The ex-ministers are accused of involuntary homicide and "attacking the physical integrity of others." They risk up to five years in prison and a maximum fine of

500,000 francs (\$90,000) on the first count and up to three years in prison and a maximum fine of 300,000 francs (\$55,000) on the second.

Dufour and Hervé are accused of a delay in making available imported — and costly — heated blood products, cleansed of the virus, instead of allowing non-heated blood with "100 per cent contamination" to circulate.

The extent of the scandal was revealed in a government-ordered report released in September 1991. The report showed that ranking health officials knowingly allowed tainted blood products to be used in transfusions.

Last year, the special court's investigative commission concluded that authorities were aware of potential contamination of blood products by early 1985, "sufficient time for a rapid reaction." It also took the ministers to task for failing to import expensive heat-treated blood free of the AIDS virus.

Heating blood products to deactivate the virus was practised in Germany and the United States by 1983.

## U.S. will not attend Myanmar heroin conference

**BANGKOK (AFP)** — The United States has decided not to attend a major international heroin conference in Myanmar, dealing a critical blow to the junta's hopes of shedding its image as a "narco-dictatorship."

A U.S. source told AFP Tuesday that Washington's decision was motivated by a desire to avoid any misunderstandings of its policy.

"The United States believes that the Burmese regime could use the conference to create the false impression that it demonstrates international approval by Interpol and participating countries of its narcotics performance," the source said.

"The U.S. wants to avoid any misinterpretation of its policy towards Burma (Myanmar)," said the source.

"Burma's anti-narcotics efforts, while improving, are far from what is necessary. Burma persists in its

disregard for political and human rights."

The U.S. was considering sending representatives of its Drugs Enforcement Administration (DEA) to the meeting, according to media reports, but its decision means there will be no U.S. representative at the meeting.

Myanmar rejects claims that its counter-narcotics record makes it an incongruous choice to host the conference.

"This is Interpol and the conference is here to show the participation of the Myanmar government in trying to eradicate drugs," Yangon Interpol representative Police Colonel Win Kyi told AFP.

Twenty-one nations had confirmed they would attend the meeting, he said.

The most recent United States Country Commercial Guide published last year described Myanmar as "the world's largest source of illicit opium" with output estimated at 2,365 metric tonnes in 1997.

Opium is reportedly smuggled out along trafficking routes in the notorious Golden Triangle drugs

zone grouping parts of Thailand, Myanmar and Laos, to supply the cravings of addicts in cities across the globe.

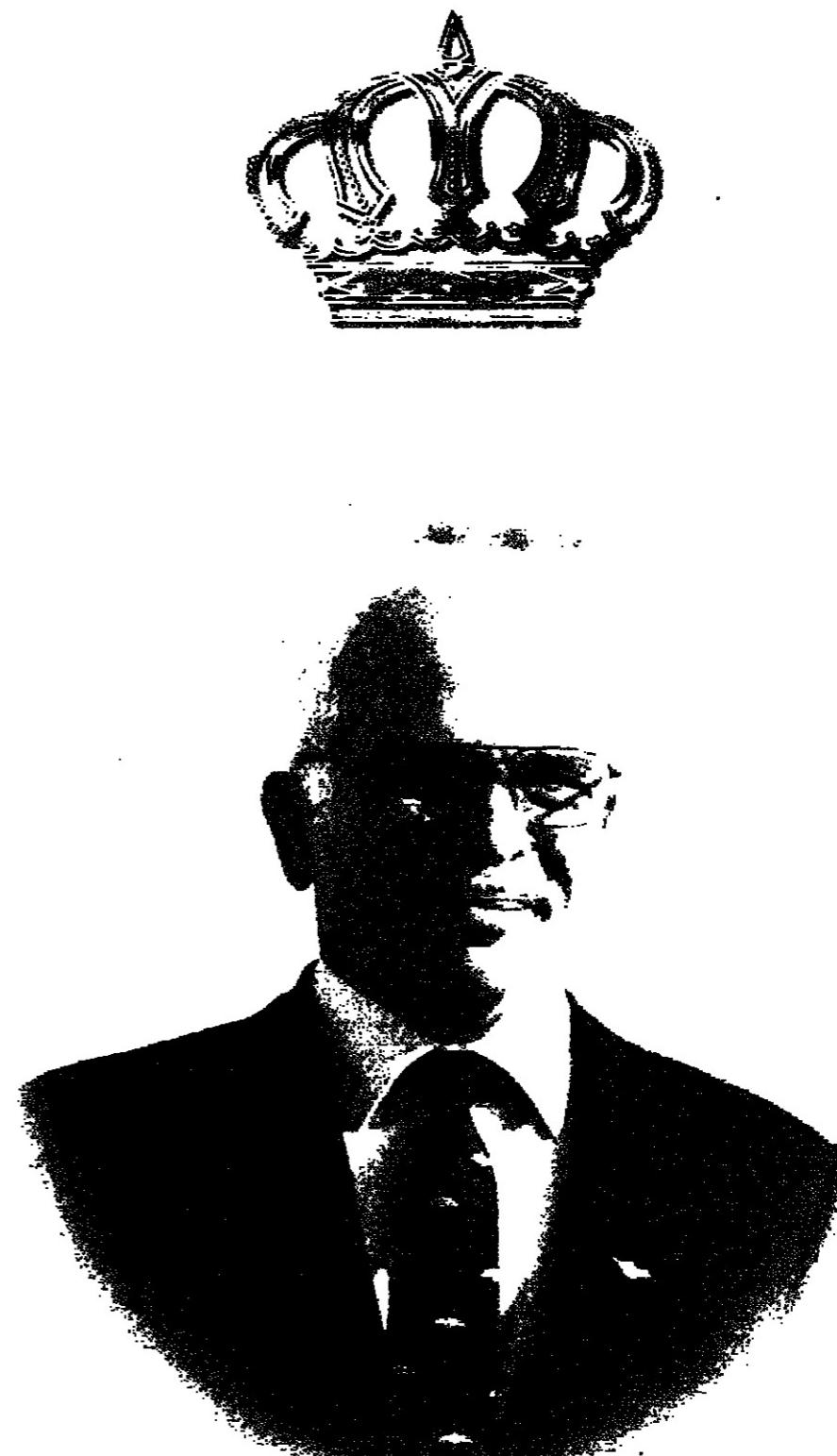
Other Western nations have also accused Myanmar of cosyng up to drug lords following the surrender of warlord Khun Sa to the military regime two years ago.

Khun Sa, along with other alleged narcotics traffickers, is believed to live in Yangon under the protection of military intelligence after his insurgent Mong Tai Army cut a ceasefire deal with the government.

Myanmar analysts say that although there is no clear evidence to link the military government with narcotics trafficking, drugs money has clearly infiltrated the economy.

Drug lords have been accused of financing legitimate businesses with the ill-gotten gains of drug trading.

**The Managing Director  
Of  
Siemens AG — Jordan Branch  
Georg Schmid and all Employees  
Wish to express their deepest sorrow  
at the passing  
Of  
His Majesty  
King Hussein Ben Talal  
And extend their deepest condolences to  
His Majesty  
King Abdullah Ben Al-Hussein,  
The Royal Hashemite Family  
and the Jordanian people.  
His Majesty King Hussein  
will be greatly missed.  
May God Rest His Soul in Peace**



# Opinion & Analysis

Jordan Times, Wednesday, February 10, 1999

## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation Established 1975

Chairman of the Board of Directors  
Abdel Salam Tarawneh

Vice Chairman & Director General  
Mohammad Amad

Executive Editor  
Abdullah Hasanat

Responsible Editor  
Elia Nasrallah

Editorial and Advertising offices  
Jordan Press Foundation,  
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman

Telephones: 5684311, 5699634, 5667171, 5603585

Faxsimile: 5696183

E-mail: jotimes@go.com.jo

Web Site: <http://www.access2arabia.com/jordantimes/>

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

## A leader who could

**IN THE** United States, they call my generation Generation X. We are the mid-to-late 20-something children of the Baby Boomers; themselves children of the survivors of the Great Depression and World War II, who came of age during the era of the late U.S. President John F. Kennedy, the Reverend Martin Luther King, the Summer of Love and the Vietnam War — leaders and incidents that truly shaped the American psyche.

Generation X-ers, you see, have been so named because our generation has lacked both. We are often accused of being faithless, adrift, unfocused, apathetic and unaware. Is it any wonder?

By the time we were politically aware, Ronald Reagan was in office. He took our billions of hard-earned tax dollars and returned it in the form of Star Wars and the Strategic Defence Initiative. George Bush gave us little more than new taxes and the Gulf War, while Bill Clinton, with all his potential, will leave us with the legacy of the infamous blue dress. We came of age in a cult of technology, environmental irresponsibility, violent crime and general decadence.

My own parents remember vividly where they were the day Kennedy was shot. They saved every newspaper and magazine that reported on that fateful day in Dallas. People are still talking about that man.

The photos of public mourning have been engrained in my mind's eye since I was a child, and the legacy of JFK is one that was impressed upon us from our youth, but he was never "my" president, "my" role model. And the public outpouring of grief was never something I fully understood, although throughout my life, I always wondered if there would be a leader who could move me in such a way.

Sunday, one did. Jordanians, you were blessed. You lived a long moment in the light of immeasurable, indescribable greatness — of which there is very little in the world. I feel very lucky to have been in Jordan during the final, very historic years of an unforgettable era.

It is not only His Majesty King Abdullah who inherits King Hussein's legacy; it is every Jordanian, it is me and it is everyone who mourns his death and who believes the world can be a better place than it is today.

With much fascination, I have watched your King remain one step ahead of all expectations; a leader who always set the example and always triumphed in the face of adversity — even in his death. I believe it was King Hussein's final triumph that not only Arabs and Israelis, but Russians and Americans, Indians and Pakistanis, Bosnians and Serbs, Greeks and Turks, stood together in peace, and for a brief few hours, the world saw itself as it could be, as it should be: one united humanity.

And because of him, I once again believe such things are possible.

Amy Henderson

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AI Ra'i's Fahed Fanek pointed out how the foreign media keep asking what Jordan's political direction be in this new era, especially regarding the peace treaty. Arab and international relations and essential changes. Such question is usually asked when power is transferred from a left-wing party to a right-wing one, but the situation in Jordan is totally different, said Fanek. There was no coup in the country; instead there was a smooth transfer of power as Jordan, he said, is a country of institutions that ensure continuity. The young King Abdullah has been chosen because of His Majesty King Hussein's confidence in him. It is certain that King Abdullah's first objective is to ensure political stability and continuity, said the writer and added that in the meantime, Jordan will respect all treaties and international relations.

Al Dustour's Oreib Rintawi said Syria's attendance to mourn Jordan for His Majesty King Hussein was distinguishing and surprising. Syria announced a three-day mourning period and delayed the poll on the presidency of Hafez Assad, whose attendance was a delightful surprise, said Rintawi, pointing out that Assad has not visited Jordan for years. The relations with Jordan have witnessed ups and downs, and neither of the two countries think they are responsible for the bad relations. But these differences are not impossible to resolve, contended the writer. Jordan has stood by Syria in several circumstances, and perhaps the Kingdom will continue this policy. Monday's meeting of all powers in the world, whether friends or foes, while mourning King Hussein, is strong evidence of His Majesty's stature, said the writer.

## King Hussein's legacy and a new generation



Rami G. Khouri

conomic status, political beliefs, or their national, ethnic or tribal ori-

we will always feel privileged to have experienced his brand of humane leadership and responsible nation-building. The entire world this week mourned the death of King Hussein. It has been fascinating to see Jordanians celebrate his life primarily for his nation-building and humane style of rule at home, while the world has honoured King Hussein primarily for his peace-making legacy. Clearly, his genius and his great accomplishments have been in domestic nation-building. We should assess that legacy in order to appreciate more particularly why he was such an enlightened Monarch and a model leader. It was, in my view, primarily because he treated people with dignity and humility — a lesson and an example that should always stay in our minds.

King Hussein met the challenge of forging Jordan's identity, and ensuring its security and statehood. King Abdullah must draw on his father's and his wider family's legacy to chart new ground in the continuing saga of modern Jordan. He must meet the complex challenge of perpetuating the well-being of Jordan by tapping the total power of its people — by enhancing their commitment to the ideals of a state that offers hope and opportunity to all, a state that is modern, productive, responsive, and fair to all its citizens.

This is why Jordanians cried, and stood in the rain and cold to honour King Hussein, and why

## Nipping in the bud futile speculation

By George S. Hishmeh

WASHINGTON — His Majesty King Hussein, in death as in life, projected a friendly image of the Arab, privileged or otherwise, thereby contributing to Westerners' appreciation of, if not fondness for, the Jordanian Monarch whose larger-than-life role has left an indelible mark on the little-understood Arab World and the Middle East.

Some eyebrows may have been raised after the sudden turn of royal events last month, which saw the King's younger brother, HRH Prince Hassan, deposed unceremoniously from the position of Crown Prince which he held loyally for 34 years. But his choice of King Abdullah, his oldest son, was accepted unhesitatingly and almost wholeheartedly in the country and elsewhere.

Whether he was aware of his abbreviated days ahead when he flew into Amman last month promising to place the Royal household

and the country on a more solid footing remains to be told. But judging from the international reaction to the unexpected decision on his successor and the amazing turnout at his funeral on Monday, the Hashemites of Jordan appear on very solid ground.

Jordanians are undoubtedly thankful to the U.S.-led efforts to keep their country financially solvent, although had this belated effort come much earlier it could have worked wonders for the Kingdom that has been a fervent and pivotal ally of the West, especially the United States.

A cursory comparison to the amount of financial and military assistance that the United States showers neighbouring Israel — over \$3 billion annually regardless of its high gross domestic product per capita which equals that of some European countries — contrasts sharply with the picture that Jordan was promised recently.

Jordan, whose population is about 4 million, has been allotted \$225 million in 1999, which amounts to a little over \$56 per person compared to the \$800 given every Israeli annually by the U.S. government.

President Clinton did well before his departure to the funeral in Amman in urging an international effort to shore up the Jordanian economy; he himself asked Congress to release an additional \$300 million in U.S. aid over the next three years. (Among the first Arab states to extend support to Jordan has been the United Arab Emirates.)

It should not escape attention here that Jordan's faltering economy may in part be attributable to U.S. and Israeli policies. Israel's refusal to open its borders to Jordanian trade with the Palestinian territories nowadays a captive market of Israel; and the U.S.-led international sanctions against neighbouring Iraq, Jordan's other natural trading partner, has contributed

to the country's immediate economic vulnerability.

Some detractors here attempted to make capital of the fact that the wife of King Abdullah is a Palestinian, a point that drew supportive reaction from former Secretary of State James Baker. ("This) fact will not hurt (King Abdullah) with the Jordanian population that is Palestinian," he wrote in the New York Times. In his Op-Ed article, Baker praised King Hussein for reading "the regional dynamics of change correctly, with the growing role of the Palestine Liberation Organisation as the representative of the Palestinian people, and during the intifada, when he put political distance between Jordan and the West Bank, thereby permitting Palestinians to lead in determining their own destiny." In 1988 King Hussein renounced his claim to the West Bank, which he lost to Israel in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

The Anti-Defamation

League, among several American Jewish groups, mourned the death of the Jordanian Monarch as "a courageous leader and passionate advocate of Arab-Israeli peace." Others, however, warned that King Abdullah may face an immediate challenge from what has been called here as "Jordan's nemesis Yasser Arafat, Hafez Assad, and Saddam Hussein."

Robert Satloff, executive director of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy and who is considered a knowledgeable observer of Jordan, said at a briefing last week that each of these Arab leaders, and perhaps all three simultaneously, will test the new Monarch "directly or indirectly." How the King meets these tests will determine how these three, and others in the region, view him for quite some time.

Robert L. Pollock, an editorial page writer in The Wall Street Journal, recalling the Israeli hackneyed "refrain" that Jordan was

intended to nip in the bud such futile speculation.

## Letters of condolence

I HAVE been so impressed with the outpouring of love and grief over the death of your King Hussein. He was obviously a great leader and a great man. If all leaders were like him our world would be a much better place. Jordan's loss is truly a loss for all of us.

Dan Strong  
U.S.

ALTHOUGH I am not a head of state or a person of great influence in this world, but my wife, children, and myself would like to extend our sympathy not only to the Royal family but to the people of Jordan. You have lost not only a leader of great courage but a father-figure to many. We will remember him in our prayers for all of you.

Joseph Hooper  
P.O. Box 501  
Scarborough, Maine  
U.S.

MY FAMILY and I were guests in Amman over 10 years time. My husband and I taught in the American Community School in Amman from 1979 to 89, for 6 years. Each time we returned to Amman we knew we made the right choice, to be among friends and family, albeit an adopted family. Over the last few days we who have not been in Jordan have written and called each other to share our grief. The few moments I spent with His Majesty are still treasured times. His humility and kindness was a grand lesson for me. I know we will all miss him. God Bless King Abdullah and his family.

Mary Foti  
U.S.

IT WAS with great, great sadness that I have followed the events of the last week. My thoughts and prayers are with all of my friends and "family" in Jordan as I mourn with you the loss of a truly remarkable leader. May God grant him peace and may God protect Jordan and its people.

Laurie A. Brand  
U.S.

MY HEART aches with sorrow for the loss of a wonderful man who meant so much to so many.

I still cannot believe His Majesty King Hussein is gone. Although I am an American and live in the U.S., I can remember him since I was a little girl growing up with a Jordanian step father. I always heard great things about His Majesty from all who knew of him. As I grew up, I realised how true those wonderful stories about him were. He was truly a great man of honour, dignity, and peace. He was the cornerstone to the peace process in the Middle East. His beautiful, warm smile will be a burning memory to me and I'm sure, to many.

My family and I want to send our deepest condolences to Her Majesty Queen Noor, the entire Royal family and to the Jordanian people.

King Hussein lives on through his children. Our prayers are extended to King Abdullah and his family. May the Lord guide you and give you strength and keep you for His wonderful purpose.

Nancy and Adel Amarin and family (here and in Jordan)  
Cucamonga, California  
U.S.

AS A student of Jordan's history for more than thirty years I would like to extend my condolences to the people of Jordan on the sad occasion, the demise of His Majesty King Hussein.

His Majesty the King had contributed a great deal to the progress and welfare of your country. He made Jordan one of the most developed, most stable and most democratic states of the Middle East.

He also made an enormous contribution to the Arab-Israeli peace process. It was His Majesty the King who — a decade before President Sadat arrived in Jerusalem — stood behind the cradle of U.N. Resolution 242 ("peace for territory") and offered the Arab World and Israel a political solution of the conflict.

There is no doubt that the respect and appreciation for King Hussein are shared by many Israelis who wish Jordan progress and stability under the leadership of His Majesty King Abdullah II.

Professor Joseph Nye  
Dept. of Middle East History  
University of Haifa, Haifa 31905  
Israel

PLEASE ALLOW me to take this opportunity to express my sincere condolences on the loss of His Majesty King Hussein. Of all the leaders in the world, King Hussein best communicated the importance of peace; and he will be remembered by both Jordanians and non-Jordanians as the King of Peace.

As your sorrow turns to pleasant memories of your King, remember the solid foundation of peace, hope, and love, he provided both Jordan and the world, and build upon it. For it will be the best path to honour his memory.

Assalamu Alaikum.

Vince Di Maggio  
U.S.

MY FAMILY used to live in Jordan between the years of 1978 and 1989. I was educated at the International Community School and was heavily involved with the Amman Little League. On a couple of occasions I had the opportunity to play for the Royal Jordanian Falcons with King Hussein's son, Prince Ali.

Through these links I was very fortunate to meet the King on several occasions. At the time I almost took these meetings for granted but his death has caused me to realise how fortunate I was. If there is a condolence list, please add my name and that of my family.

Steve Clune  
Lewisham  
London  
England

AS AN American Jew residing in California, please accept my profoundest regrets at the passing of your King. The Middle East, and indeed the world, has lost a powerful voice for peace. King Hussein earned the respect and gratitude that only a man of conscience, bravery, and remarkable charisma may lay claim to. I know Abdullah in his stewardship of Jordan through the turbulent times ahead. If he can draw upon the strength and wisdom so evident in his father, the future is encouraging.

Bob Stolkin  
U.S.

The Resident Rep.  
and Staff  
Friedrich Naumann  
express their sincere  
and deepest sympathy  
alHashemite  
and to the p  
of Jordan for the  
His Maj  
King Hussein  
May his soul re

## Letters of condolence

**IN THE** early 1980's, the American Jewish Congress was the first Jewish organisation to receive and accept an invitation from the Kingdom of Jordan to visit that country and to meet with its leaders. We were pleased to be received by the Prime Minister and then by His Majesty, King Hussein. This began a relationship between us and the King that became deeper and warmer with the passing years. Each time we saw King Hussein there was no mistaking that he was a King. There was also no mistaking that he was a warm, unmistakably decent, and sympathetic human being. Consequently, we feel a special sense of loss at his untimely death.

With King Hussein's passing, Israel and the Jewish people have lost a true friend. The Middle East has lost a peacemaker. The world has lost a unique example of how wisdom combines with statesmanship.

King Hussein has destroyed for all time the simplistic notion that Arab leaders are necessarily hostile to Jewish concerns. Like his grandfather before him, who was assassinated because he dared to think of living in peace with Israel, King Hussein realised that Israel was a permanent reality and that Jordan and the Jewish state were destined to share the future.

Even as we extend our heartfelt condolences to King Hussein's wife, Queen Noor, to his children and to his people, we also express our confidence that the reign of his heir, King Abdullah, will be notable for the same combination of humanity and devotion to the cause of peace that marked the life of his father.

We hardly thought that we would be using this phrase again so soon; it has come to have for us a precious and singular meaning. But King Hussein was an intimate with Yitzhak Rabin in the tireless pursuit of peace. And so, with all respect, we can think of no more fitting way to say farewell than, Shalom, Chaver,

Jack Rosen/President  
Phil Baurin/Executive Director  
David Clayman/Israel director

**LET MINE** be one more small voice among many mourning the passing of your great King. Let my prayer be one more among many thanking Almighty God for the life of this good and great man. And let people of good will the world over add a special prayer tonight for the benevolent son who bears the Crown, and carries the burden and the promise of peace.

Peter D. Fenzel  
New York, NY  
U.S.

I AM so sorry the King has passed away. May the Lord be with Queen Noor and his son, King Abdullah. I have learned much about Jordan through time, and King Hussein seemed to be a true man of peace. Our president showed great affection for him. You truly have a beautiful country. Our prayers are with you.

Gary Cadwell  
U.S.

I AM writing to express our most sincere sympathies to Queen Noor, the Royal Family and to the Jordanian people for the loss of King Hussein. I do not think that there has ever in history been one so honoured and respected as His Majesty.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you all today and always.

Gloria Roohr-Hyzer, N.D. and Family  
Cushing, Wisconsin  
U.S.

I HOPE that time will heal your nation. I am an American who respected your beloved King who just passed away. God bless the new King and Jordan.

Wm T  
Capps  
Jessup, Maryland  
U.S.

AS AN American currently living and working in Amman I have been following the sad events surrounding the illness and death of His Majesty King Hussein closely, both here in Jordan and in my home state of Minnesota via the Internet. We all have lost a King, a King to the people of the world.

John C. Mitchell  
International School of Choueifat  
Amman

I AM greatly saddened by the death of King Hussein and I wish to extend my deepest sympathy and prayers to his family and the people of Jordan.

I have respected and admired him for many years along with many other Americans.

His tireless efforts to promote peace, his leadership, and his qualities as a human being are an inspiration to people everywhere. He touched the hearts of people around the world and his passing is a very sad day for the world. I share the feelings of grief and sorrow that are felt by the Jordanian people and I pray that God will give King Abdullah the strength, courage, and compassion that he will need in his new role.

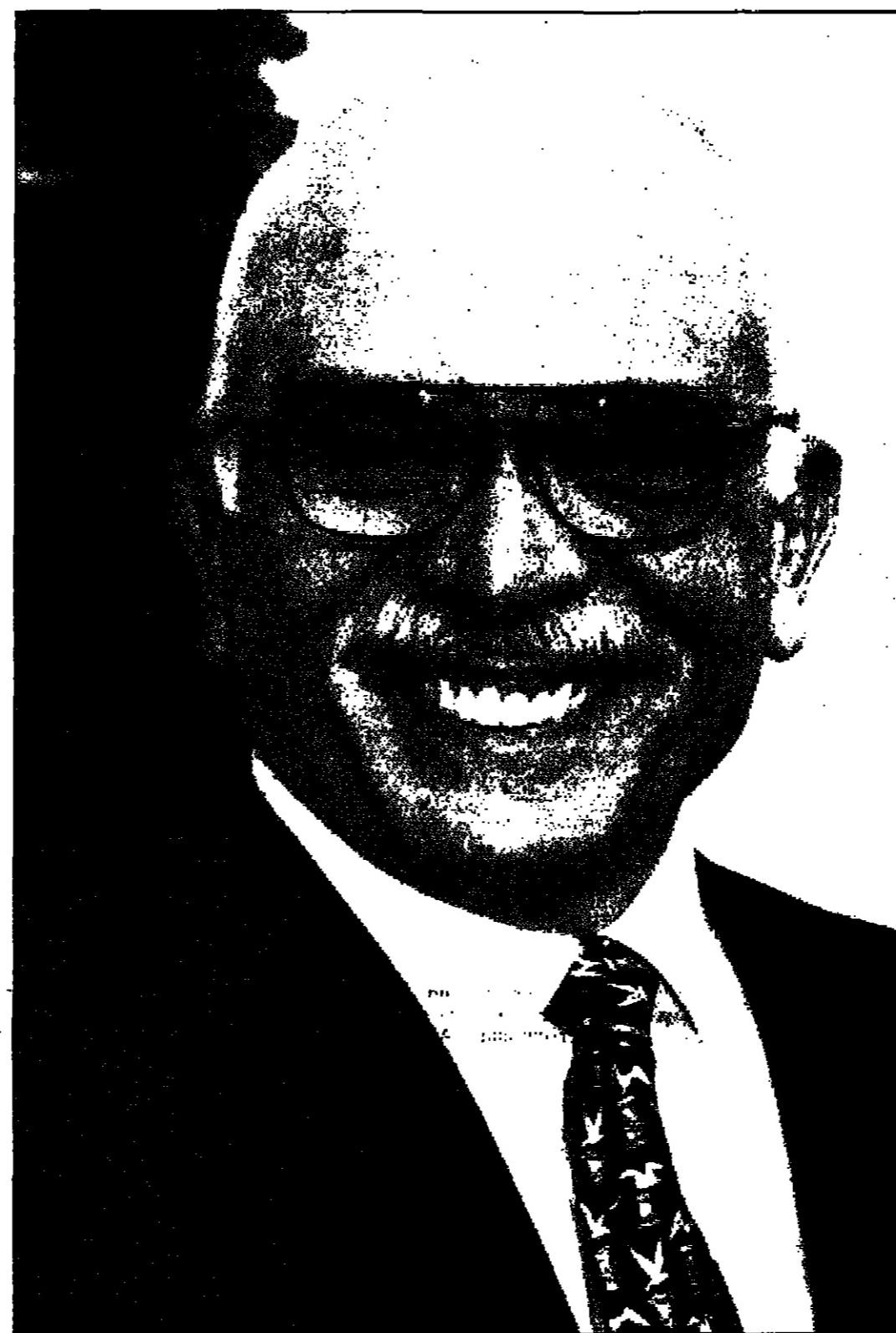
Linda Mowatt  
Alaska

WE ARE truly sorry for the death of your beloved King, a true philanthropist. His warmth and magnanimity radiated through the world, like a beacon in the darkness. He will be sorely missed.

Fiona and Peter Daly  
U.K.

WE WOULD like to send our condolences for the death of HM King Hussein.

Gudrun & Rik Van Lent  
Doha  
Qatar



I DEEPLY sympathise with the people of Jordan for they have lost a great King.

May he rest in peace and let his spirit be present forever in the Kingdom of Jordan and the Middle East.

Robert Smies  
Netherlands

OUR DEEPEST sincere condolences on the death of our King and the apostle of peace His Majesty King Hussein. We are all overwhelmed by sadness and grief over the loss of King Hussein, may God bestow mercy on his soul.

We extend our sympathy and love to His Majesty King Abdullah, Queen Noor, the Royal Family and to the people of Jordan during this very hard time. May God bless King Abdullah and the people of Jordan.

Nadiem Sawakid and family  
Australia

WHEN I heard the news out of Jordan that King Hussein has died it made me and my family very sad. I pray to God to give him a place in Paradise.

S. Arif Hussein Shah and family  
U.S.

I ALONG with so many Americans, feel your grief of the loss of King Hussein. He was a hero of mine since I was a little girl. I hope in my heart that we can continue to work for peace all over the world in his name. Thank you for letting the world watch the funeral, and feel that we were there with you. Please support King Abdullah in carrying on his father's causes. King Abdullah and the people of Jordan will be the key to peace in the Middle East and everywhere in the world.

Juli Eggers  
Las Vegas NV  
U.S.

**The Resident Representative  
and Staff of  
Friedrich Naumann Foundation  
express their sincere condolences  
and deepest sympathy to the Roy-  
al Hashemite Family  
and to the people  
of Jordan for the loss of  
His Majesty  
King Hussein Ben Talal  
May his soul rest in peace**



Join the Hashemite family,  
Royal Jordanian and the  
Jordanian people in their deep  
sorrow at the loss of  
  
**His Majesty  
King Hussein Ben Talal,**  
a great Pilot and Aviator.  
May his soul rest in peace.



Join the Hashemite family,  
Royal Jordanian, the Royal  
Jordanian Air Force and the  
Jordanian people in their deep  
sorrow at the loss of  
  
**His Majesty  
King Hussein Ben Talal,**  
a great Pilot and Aviator.  
May his soul rest in peace.



Join the Hashemite family,  
Royal Jordanian, the Royal  
Jordanian Air Force and the  
Jordanian people in their deep  
sorrow at the loss of  
  
**His Majesty  
King Hussein Ben Talal,**  
a great Pilot and Aviator.  
May his soul rest in peace.

## IEA cuts 1999 world oil demand forecast further

**PARIS (AFP)** — The International Energy Agency (IEA) Tuesday revised down by 0.3 million barrels a day its forecast for world oil demand in 1999 and said OPEC compliance with its output ceiling fell sharply in January.

Global oil demand is now forecast to be an average of 74.7 million barrels a day for 1999, down from 75.0 million barrels a day forecast in January when the IEA cut its forecast by 0.6 million barrels a day, the IEA said in its monthly oil report.

The IEA also revised downward its estimate of total oil demand in 1998 to 73.7 million barrels a day from 73.9 million.

The IEA also said that compliance by members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) with output cuts announced in June had fallen to 75 per cent in January, with output rising to 27.62 million barrels a day from 27.37 million in December.

This is well above the IEA's new forecast of demand for OPEC oil at 26.9 million barrels a day in

1999, down from a January forecast of 27.1 million.

Oil stocks in the industrial countries in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) fell sharply in December, but at the same time mild winter weather and economic weakness in several areas caused demand to fall by more than 0.4 million barrels a day during the fourth quarter of 1998.

Oil prices recovered from their December historic low points in the first part of January, gaining more than a dollar a barrel, but since then "prices retreated in reaction to milder U.S. weather and high stock levels."

Overall oil supply outstripped demand in 1998 by more than two million barrels a day, with demand averaging 73.7 million barrels a day against supply at 73.5 million.

The rise in OPEC output in January "more than offset decreases in non-OPEC production," the IEA said.

Part of the increase came from increased Iraqi output under its oil-for-food deal

with the United Nations, rising to 2.59 million barrels a day in January from 2.36 million in December, while Saudi Arabian output rose to 7.93 million barrels a day from 7.85 million.

The only OPEC members whose output fell in January were the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Nigeria and Venezuela, frequently accused of quota-busting, which reduced its output to 2.97 million barrels a day from 3.0 million in November and December, the IEA said.

OPEC producers agreed two rounds of output cuts last year in a bid to boost prices, but the cuts have never been fully respected and prices have remained obstinately low.

The OPEC oil ministers are to meet again on March 23.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia sees battered oil prices recovering in a few months and would consider an OPEC compromise on the key issue of Iranian compliance with pledged output cuts, a Saudi oil official said Tuesday.

"Growing" demand (for

oil) is expected. Demand in Asia is expected to pick up again and a decline in supply is expected.

Based on these factors Saudi Arabia sees prices recovering in a few months," the Saudi oil official told Reuters.

He said expectations of a fall in production this year from non-OPEC states was another reason for Saudi optimism.

The official declined to comment when asked what levels would satisfy the petroleum giant.

Brent crude futures opened four cents higher on Tuesday at \$10.20 a barrel.

OPEC is struggling for mechanisms to rejuvenate the depressed oil market after two rounds of production cuts orchestrated by Saudi Arabia, Venezuela and Mexico last year proved fruitless.

Saudi Arabia, OPEC kingpin and the world's largest oil producer and exporter, has repeatedly delivered one message to fellow producers and world markets anxious for recovery — compliance with past deals is needed before new

agreements.

The oil official said the kingdom would "go with the crowd" if all OPEC members agreed to compromise over Iran.

"Saudi Arabia would agree if it is beneficial to everybody. If OPEC decides to deal with Iran as a special case so let it be," he said.

An OPEC delegate said the kingdom believed such a move would set a bad precedent for a group already plagued by squabbling.

"The problem is it would create an opening. OPEC members will start saying 'Why don't you apply the same to me? If there is special treatment this will be difficult. The whole house will collapse,'" he added.

The OPEC delegate said it was unlikely that all OPEC states would agree to a compromise on the Iranian baseline issue.

"Do you think that if Saudi Arabia agrees others will say yes?" he asked.

Iran is producing about 3.6 million barrels per day, saying it should have cut from 3.925 million last

February, not the 3.62 million baseline judged by independent media estimates of its output.

Saudi Oil Minister Ali Al Naimi has expressed optimism that compromise could be reached on the issue during Iranian President Mohammad Khatami's landmark visit to Saudi Arabia next month or at the March 23 OPEC meeting in Vienna.

While in Saudi Arabia, U.S. Energy Secretary Bill Richardson has predicted U.S. crude oil prices at \$15 a barrel by the end of the year and "maybe" \$20 by 2000, a Saudi daily said Tuesday.

"Crude oil prices go through cyclical phases, we expect a price of \$15 by the end of the year" for West Texas Intermediate (WTI), Richardson said, quoted by the Al Qissadiya newspaper.

"The tendency to go up will be slow, it might reach \$20 by 2000 or after," he said. WTI currently sells for around \$12 a barrel, while benchmark Brent is hovering around the \$10.50 mark.

## Next financial crisis will hit the 'system' itself — Soros

**PARIS (AFP)** — The world's next major financial crisis will blow up "at the heart of the system" due to over-heating on the stock markets, financier George Soros has warned in an interview.

To prevent the speculative "bubble" created by the stock market boom, from bursting, Soros called for the establishment of international institutions "capable of averting excesses and too much instability" a function which he said the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was not in a position to fulfil.

"It doesn't have the resources at present, but it has to take on more of the role of an international central bank," Soros said. Specifically, he advocates changing the IMF's role in its relations with countries where lenders — that is, international investors — have lent imprudently.

Currently, the IMF's mission is to enable countries in trouble to service their international obligations, and therefore it always advocates high interest rates, which tend to push countries into recession, Soros said.

Using Brazil as an example, he said that country was wrong to raise interest rates after devaluing its currency earlier this month, and that he was convinced the misguided rate hike was in response to advice from the IMF.

That advice, he stressed, "was bad advice."

Instead, the IMF should "impose conditions on the lenders, as well as the borrowers ... (and) ought to be in a position of acting as lender of last resort with regard to those countries that are following sound policies," he said.

The welfare state becomes inappropriate within the framework of the world financial market. Closer international cooperation is necessary, a harmonisation of policies, like what is going to happen in Europe with the creation of the euro," he said, alluding to the European single currency launched on Jan. 1.

As a way of reforming the IMF, Soros suggested setting up "an international central bank" but which would "not be an institution like the (U.S.) Federal Reserve or the European Central Bank."

"It simply means that the IMF should be in a position to intervene as a lender, as a last resort, to countries wishing to obtain such a form of protection," he said.

Soros was reassuring on the Brazilian financial crisis, saying it was "no longer of world proportions."

But he stressed the need for IMF support for Brazil "without which the risk exists of a free fall of the currency, as happened in Indonesia."

## Morocco seeks Arab Gulf investments

**RABAT (R)** — Morocco has said Wednesday that a high-level delegation visiting six Arab Gulf states this month would seek partners in joint ventures and not loans or financial aid.

"I believe that the Moroccan economy has matured enough to develop our partnership from a relationship of grants and loans with Arab countries, especially in the Gulf," Finance Minister Fatahullah Oualalou told Reuters in an interview.

"We want Arab investors to consider Morocco as their gateway to the European markets as we prepare for the free trade zone in 2010," he said.

Oualalou will this week lead a 45-member team of government officials on the first trip to the oil-rich region by a senior member of Morocco's Socialist-led government since it was appointed in March.

The team will visit the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and Saudi Arabia, which comprise the 18-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Asked if Moroccan businessmen accompanying him carried specific projects to discuss with their Arab Gulf counterparts, Oualalou said: "There are four types of

projects, mainly in the productive sectors — industries, especially those for export purposes, fishing, agriculture and tourism.

The government will only act as an umbrella to bring these investors together, encourage and guide them to the vast business opportunities here in Morocco," he added.

Officials said the government was trying to shake off a perception that Morocco mainly looked north in its trade and political relations.

Morocco has signed several trade agreements with Egypt and Jordan and was negotiating similar accords with Tunis.

But since his appointment in March, Prime Minister Abderrahmane Al Youssoufi has visited half a dozen European countries and China. He has repeatedly criticised Arab governments for doing little to promote inter-Arab trade.

Europe is Morocco's main trading partner, receiving nearly 64 per cent of its exports and accounting for more than half of the North African country's imports.

Nearly 70 per cent of direct foreign investments in Morocco come from Europe.

Total Arab Gulf investments in Morocco are estimated at around \$1.0 billion.

"There are four types of

mainly in real estate, tourism and oil sectors, including the largest oil refinery Samit, bought in 1997 by the Swedish-based Saudi Corral Petroleum Holding AB.

Oualalou said earlier Morocco's gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to grow by over four per cent in 1999, up from an earlier forecast of three per cent due to heavy rains.

He painted a rosy picture of the economy under Youssoufi, appointed by King Hassan in March.

"Morocco is among very few countries that have not been affected by last year's financial crises in Asia and Russia. The stock market jumped around 20 per cent in 1998... exports rose six per cent remittances by Moroccans living abroad increased four per cent, while tourism receipts soared 15 per cent," he said.

This rise in revenues allowed the government to pursue its strategy of reducing the debt burden that consumes one-third of the budget, he said.

The figure of three per cent was given before the favourable rainfall recently. Now all indications show that GDP growth will exceed four per cent in 1999 compared with 6.3 per cent the previous year," he told Reuters in an interview.

Morocco suffers from a cyclical drought about once every three years, hitting the agriculture sector that accounts for 17 per cent of GDP of 347 billion dirhams (\$37.3 billion) in 1998.

Oualalou said the government had prepared contingency plans to deal with the delay in rainfall, but cancelled them this month following better forecasts for the 1998/99 harvest.

He dismissed reports of a dramatic decline in direct foreign investment as inaccurate, saying the figure of around \$450 million achieved in 1998 was in line with previous years.

In 1997, Morocco attracted a record \$1.2 billion in direct investment, more than double the annual average of \$500 million.

He painted a rosy picture of the economy under Youssoufi, appointed by King Hassan in March.

"Morocco is among very few countries that have not been affected by last year's financial crises in Asia and Russia. The stock market jumped around 20 per cent in 1998... exports rose six per cent remittances by Moroccans living abroad increased four per cent, while tourism receipts soared 15 per cent," he said.

This rise in revenues allowed the government to pursue its strategy of reducing the debt burden.

Oualalou said the government had prepared contingency plans to deal with the delay in rainfall, but cancelled them this month following better forecasts for the 1998/99 harvest.

"We are optimistic because the French and the Spanish governments are quite responsive to our needs," Oualalou said.

## Omanis only need apply

**MUSCAT (AFP)** — Oman is restricting more and more jobs — from driving tractors to work as estate agents — to its own nationals as part of a campaign to cut reliance on foreign labour in an era of low oil prices.

Recently, newspapers ran a ministerial decree announcing that all estate agents will have to be Omanis as from October.

And the ministry of labour, social affairs and vocational training announced that only Omanis would in future be allowed to drive a tractor.

Foreign workers have already been banned from driving school buses and water tankers, and driving vans loaded with gas cylinders is next on the list of jobs restricted to Omanis, newspapers said.

According to official figures the Gulf sultanate has a population of around two million, including 500,000 foreign workers, mostly from the Indian sub-continent.

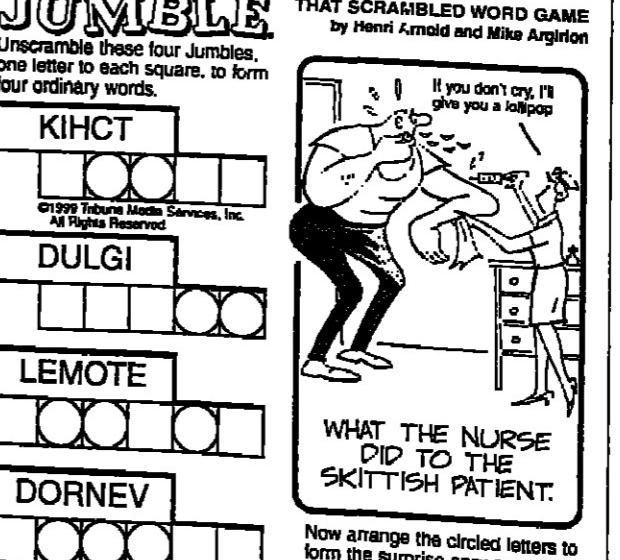
Faced with falling oil revenues and rising populations, the six Gulf Arab states have also severely curtailed hiring foreigners in the public sector.

## THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: RIVET BAGGY SHREWD NUDISM

Answer: An after-dinner speaker's remarks can become this — HARD TO DIGEST

## THE Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

1 Call meat  
5 Conductive  
10 R&B pioneer,  
James  
14 Woody  
Guthrie's boy  
15 Courtyards  
16 Nobleman  
17 Urban renewal  
plan?  
20 NY gambling  
sector  
21 Passions of  
stuff.  
22 Sty sounds  
23 Revel noisily  
25 Menial laborer  
27 Inc. in the U.K.  
28 Roared  
32 Lunch-counter  
perch  
33 Preheat  
36 Flooring 20s,  
e.g.  
37 Filibuster's  
dream?  
41 Beer choice  
42 Wallach and  
Whitney  
43 Diagram, as a  
sentence  
44 School period  
47 Vietnam  
Memorial artist  
48 Falsehoods  
49 Carnal  
50 Carnal  
53 The Evil One  
55 Box seal  
57 Masters  
players org.  
58 Wine slogan?

59 Tangled in a  
dense mass

60 Clear sky

61 Art category

62 Folk regret

DOWN

1 Met

2 Poetic muse

3 Excuse,

4 Not of  
Cambodia

5 Tangled in a  
dense mass

6 Go by, as time

45 Chinese: pref.

46 Chinese: pref.

47 Pope's  
emissary

48 Sub detector

49 Subwoofer

50 Samoan

51 See eye

52 Hobbed

53 Exams

54 Indigo dye

55 Secretarial  
mistake

56 Paint a word  
picture

5

## Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic Press

### Reduction in the volume of trade protocol with Iraq described as 'devastating blow'

**\*\* COMMENTING ON** the possibility of reducing the volume of Jordanian exports to Iraq as a result of the sharp drop in oil prices, industrial sources said such a move would augment the problems that have been accumulating and burdening the industrial sector and would cause more frustrations.

"Reducing the volume of the trade protocol with Iraq another time will be a devastating blow to the Jordanian industrial sector which hopes to optimise its exports to outside markets, especially the traditional ones including the Iraqi which is considered the largest market that imports Jordanian products," said Marwan Khirfan, a board member of the Amman Chamber of Industry (ACI). He referred to the 1998 trade protocol stressing that despite totalling \$255 million, it did not satisfy the ambitions of the Jordanian industrialists. "Many industries were set up in the Kingdom for the benefit of the Iraqi market," he emphasised.

The Joint Jordanian-Iraqi Trade Committee is expected to meet soon to specify the volume of Jordanian exports to Iraq in light of the volume of oil supplies that the Kingdom has agreed to import from Iraq earlier this year. Industry and Trade Minister Mohammad Saleh Hourani expects the volume of exports to be lowered due to the sharp drop in oil prices which are seen continuing at a low level throughout this year. The level of exports is expected to be reduced by \$65 million to around

\$190 million.

Noting that according to Central Bank statistics, Jordanian exports to Iraq amounted to JD142 million in 1997, Khirfan said that by lowering the volume of the trade protocol, Jordanian industries will be losing an important part of the Iraqi market for the benefit of products from other countries. He added that Turkey, Syria and the United Arab Emirates have opened the door wide for trading with Iraq.

"We should not sacrifice the (Iraqi) market so easily," Khirfan said stressing that Iraqi officials give priority to Jordanian goods and Jordanian industrialists. "While we exert every possible effort to keep the Iraqi market, which was once a monopoly for Jordanian exporters, the Iraqis will be pressured to look to other countries if we continue to shrink the volume of the trade protocol," he emphasised.

Khirfan said: "When the time is near to reap the fruits we find others racing ahead of us to get them although we were caring for the fruits from the beginning." He attributed that to measures which are sometimes adopted without taking into considerations the interests of economic sectors including industry, trade, transport and Aqaba port.

Industrialists and traders are, meanwhile, calling for raising the trade protocol with Iraq to the level of \$400 million that existed many years ago to meet Iraqi needs and widen the base of exports to Iraq (Al Dustour).

### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1999

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) You could use an advanced philosophical concept to solve a puzzle today. It might happen by accident, and that's part of the trick. As if you let go on purpose so that a miracle can occur, and it does! You could acquire a lot of wisdom and some peace of mind, if you follow this general theme.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Looks like a friend of yours is clashing with an older person. One of those lose/lose situations. Your friend is feeling beat up, and the other person is feeling let down. You can see this situation more objectively than either of them, so coaching is permissible. Your good common sense will be appreciated.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Looks like somebody could get hurt feelings today, and it's one of those tragic situations that might have been avoided if people were a little more careful about what they said. Choose your words carefully. Don't make fun of anyone else, for example. Even something said in jest could hurt badly, especially if it's the truth.

**CANCER:** (June 22 to July 22) A sensitive friend of yours could get her feelings hurt today. You're probably one of the people she'll come to if that happens. Advise your friend that she's luckier than she realises. A confronting situation could point out an area that needs to be avoided, or a lesson to be learned.

**LEO:** (July 23 to August 22) The spotlight is on love and partnerships, two of your favourite topics. They may not be going all that smoothly, however. What you want and what your partner insists upon may be quite different. Who's going to give in first? Well, in this particular situation, it looks like that honour falls to you.

**VIRGO:** (August 23 to September 22) The conflict today concerns your partner and something that's going on at home. The two of you could have a clash of ideas, which will require that some sort of compromise be reached. Part of the compromise, just possibly, is something that neither of you has considered before.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) A thoughtless remark today could hurt a coworker more than you ever thought possible, so be careful what you say. Tell people

what they want to hear. This isn't lying, and lying is not required. What's required is a change in attitude. Come from their position instead of your own and you'll do fine.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Looks like you could have a setback, but you'll survive it if you plan ahead. Keep something in reserve, and don't gamble more than you can afford to lose. The good luck comes closer to home. Something you already own could increase in value, or maybe you'll just find out its worth more than you thought.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) You're a gregarious, outgoing person. When you run into someone who doesn't want to mingle, you might secretly feel there's something wrong with him or her. If you let that get out today, you could hurt a friend's feelings. Accept people as they are, and don't expect them to be any other way. You may be pleasantly surprised.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 19) Yesterday's blinding insights are starting to settle in by now. You might have to look at yourself in a completely new and different way. This takes a little practice, but it's worth it. You might even decide that it's OK for you to take a little time to play, instead of working 24 hours a day. Stranger things have happened.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 18) If your sweetheart thinks you're spending more on your friends than on your family, you'll be in trouble. Don't worry. You'll find a way around this rather delicate situation. What you need to give your loved one is not a gift, but a compliment. Reassure him or her that your attention never strays. That's what this problem is really about.

**PISCES:** (February 19 to March 20) Someone might say something that hurts your feelings today. The person probably wasn't being malicious, but if he or she was laughing, it sure felt like that, didn't it? Well, when we can laugh at ourselves, that's when we really become enlightened. Why don't you give that a try? It'll make everybody feel better.

Birdstone of February:  
Amethyst — Onyx

## Saudi construction activity declined in 1998 — study

RIYADH (R) — Construction activity in Saudi Arabia slipped last year on an economic slowdown caused by low oil prices and a cut in government spending, but is expected to see some pick-up in 1999, a bank report said.

"With the current economic slowdown in Saudi Arabia, investment in construction activities is expected to decline by 10 per cent to 60.1 billion riyals (\$16.02 billion) in 1998 and to moderately recover in 1999," said the report by the National Commercial Bank (NCB).

In the 10-month period to October 1998, the combined value of construction contracts awarded declined by 23.3 per cent to 11.90 billion riyals compared with 15.52 billion in the same period the previous year, the report said.

Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil producer and exporter, cut spending in its 1999 budget by 15.2 per cent to 165 billion riyals to cope with the lowest oil prices in 12 years.

But NCB said despite the slowdown several new construction projects remained in

the pipeline.

"Besides the projects already awarded in the first 10 months of 1998, a number of industrial and oil-related projects are in the pipeline which would provide contracting opportunities in 1999 and beyond," it said.

The report forecast construction as a proportion of gross domestic product (GDP) to rise to 9.3 per cent in 1998 from 8.6 in 1997.

But it added that the sector could have difficulties raising more funds, even with the government meeting some of

its arrears.

"Although the government is believed to have issued so far this year (up to October 1998) 3.4 billion riyals worth of special government bonds to contractors and suppliers, the growing indebtedness of the construction sector suggests that additional commercial bank credit to construction related activities would become more difficult to acquire in 1999."

The decline in construction activity was also hitting the country's eight cement producers, the report said.

It said the combined corporate earnings of the cement firms dropped by 18.8 per cent in the first nine months of 1998, from the same period the previous year. Domestic prices of cement dropped by 42 per cent in the third quarter of 1998.

Cement consumption in Saudi Arabia grew rapidly after the 1991 Gulf War thanks to a construction boom which encouraged many cement firms to invest millions of dollars in new plants or in expanding existing facilities.

## Israeli industry official urges more trade with Jordan

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli and Jordanian business leaders should not hesitate to expand trade and investment ties following the death of King Hussein, an official of Israel's Manufacturers Association said Tuesday.

Doron Tamir, a vice president of the association, said in a statement that the two countries should aim to increase the number of joint ventures over the next three years to 50.

He urged the two countries to strive to increase two-way trade by a factor of 10 to \$400 million.

"For this purpose the governments of Israel

and Jordan must do more to lower barriers and to facilitate passage and traffic between the two countries so trade can develop accordingly," he said.

Israeli-Jordanian trade last year grew by 25 per cent to \$40 million. The association estimated the total value of Israeli-Jordanian joint ventures at \$300 million.

Tamir said the association would be sending a delegation to Jordan to show support for continued relations. He said the Israeli business sector gave top priority to political and economic stability in neighbouring Jordan.

## May his memory forever be a blessing

In humility before the God who created us all,

we mourn with the Royal Family and the people of the

Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

the passing of His Majesty King Hussein

a ruler of extraordinary wisdom and courage,  
who lifted the eyes of the Middle East and led his people  
to a new vision of peace and reconciliation.

We will honour his beloved memory by our work together  
in the cause he so bravely championed

Bruce M. Ramer David A. Harris Joseph Alpher  
President Executive Director Director, Israel/ME Office

## British women take lead in changing society

LONDON (R) — Women are at the cutting edge of a fast-changing society in Britain, snapping up new jobs faster than men, and girls do better at school, according to an exhaustive survey.

If the British male is feeling vulnerable, as lifestyle magazines suggest, the 1999 Social Trends survey from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) will do little to put his mind at rest.

It showed women took most of the new jobs on offer, being more willing to work part-time and often for less money. More than 75 per cent of women aged between 25 and 44 were either in work or seeking it in 1997, compared with 50 per cent in 1971.

The average household's disposable income nearly doubled between 1971 and 1997. But the willingness to pile purchases on credit, one of the factors that turned the 1980s boom to bust, has been replaced by a much more cautious approach.

Debit cards, which take money direct from bank accounts, accounted for 42 per cent of total card spending in 1997, up from only seven per cent in 1989.

Despite their advances, women can expect to earn only 80 per cent of the average man's hourly pay and increasing numbers across the sexual divide are working harder than the European Union (EU) would like.

## YOU BELONG TO GOD AND YOU RETURN TO HIM

With the deepest pain, sadness and grief, Dorsch Consult München and Amman Office mourns the loss of the Great King

## His Majesty King Hussein Ben Talal

and extend their deepest condolences and sympathy to

## His Majesty King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein,

the Royal Hashemite Family and the Jordanian people.

May he rest in eternal peace

Employees of the German Development Cooperation

Represented by

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ)  
and

The Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW)

Would like to extend to

## His Majesty King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein,

The Hashemite Family and the Jordanian people

Their deepest condolences on the passing away of

## His Majesty King Hussein Ben Talal,

The great and the respected Man of Peace and Leadership

May God grant the Royal family and the large Jordanian family  
the strength and courage to face the days ahead.

May God Rest His Soul In Peace

## JORDAN MARKETPLACE \*\*\* JORDAN MARKETPLACE \*\*\* JORDAN MARKETPLACE

### DAJANI JEWELLERS

Many villas and apartments for rent and sale  
Furnished & Unfurnished  
For more information call:  
Abdoun Real Estate  
5920605/5920609/079/53007  
Web Site is  
[www.abdoun.com.jo](http://www.abdoun.com.jo)

**STUDIO HAIG**  
Professional quality in 1 hour service  
Develop your colour film at our shop and get:  
\* JUMBO photo size 30% larger.  
\* Free enlargement 20 x 30 cm.  
Shmeisani - Opposite Grindlays Bank.  
Phone: 5604042  
Swifteh Tel: 822891

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SECTION CALL  
5684311 - 5699634 EXT. 42  
&  
Fax: 5693337

**FOR RENT**  
Deluxe Villas and Apartments  
**SANABEL**  
Real Estate  
**SWEIFIYEH**  
A. Hajar Complex  
Tel: 5884230 - 5865167  
Mobile: 079/537588

**fomra forum Hotel**  
At 6th Circle  
Tel.: 5510001  
**Meetings and Conferences**  
Focus on Your Business,  
our specialist will handle the details  
to ensure your Success...  
your Friendly Host

Amra Forum Hotel  
Amman

**BAYERISCHER HOF**  
German Restaurant  
LUNCH: 12:30p.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
DINNER: 6:30p.m. - 11:30 p.m.  
German coffee and cakes served all day  
Swifteh - Al Hamra Street Tel: 5819730 / 5810811  
PO Box 6555, Amman-11118 Jordan

# French captain Deschamps vows to end English jinx

LONDON (R) — French captain Didier Deschamps will equal Manuel Amoros' record of 82 French caps on Wednesday, and he has vowed to do it in style by finishing on the winning side against England for the first time.

"Winning here tomorrow would mean something special to me because the last time I came to this stadium, in February 1992, the English beat us 2-0," Deschamps said. "That's not the best Wembley souvenir."

"(Michel) Platini was our coach and we were on a run of more than 20 matches without defeat and that loss marked the beginning of a dark era for French soccer."

"That 'dark era' culminated in France failing to qualify for the 1994 World Cup."

"After we lost at Wembley, everything went wrong," Deschamps continued.

"Maybe we faced too much pressure in previous games and came here too relaxed. We felt we were losing ground during the game itself and there was nothing we could do," Deschamps's second match against England was during the 1992 European championship in Sweden and the game ended a goalless draw — the French were eliminated in the first round of

the tournament. The last time he faced the English was during the 1997 Tournoi de France in Montpellier and striker Alan Shearer blasted home the visitors' winner from close-range five minutes from time.

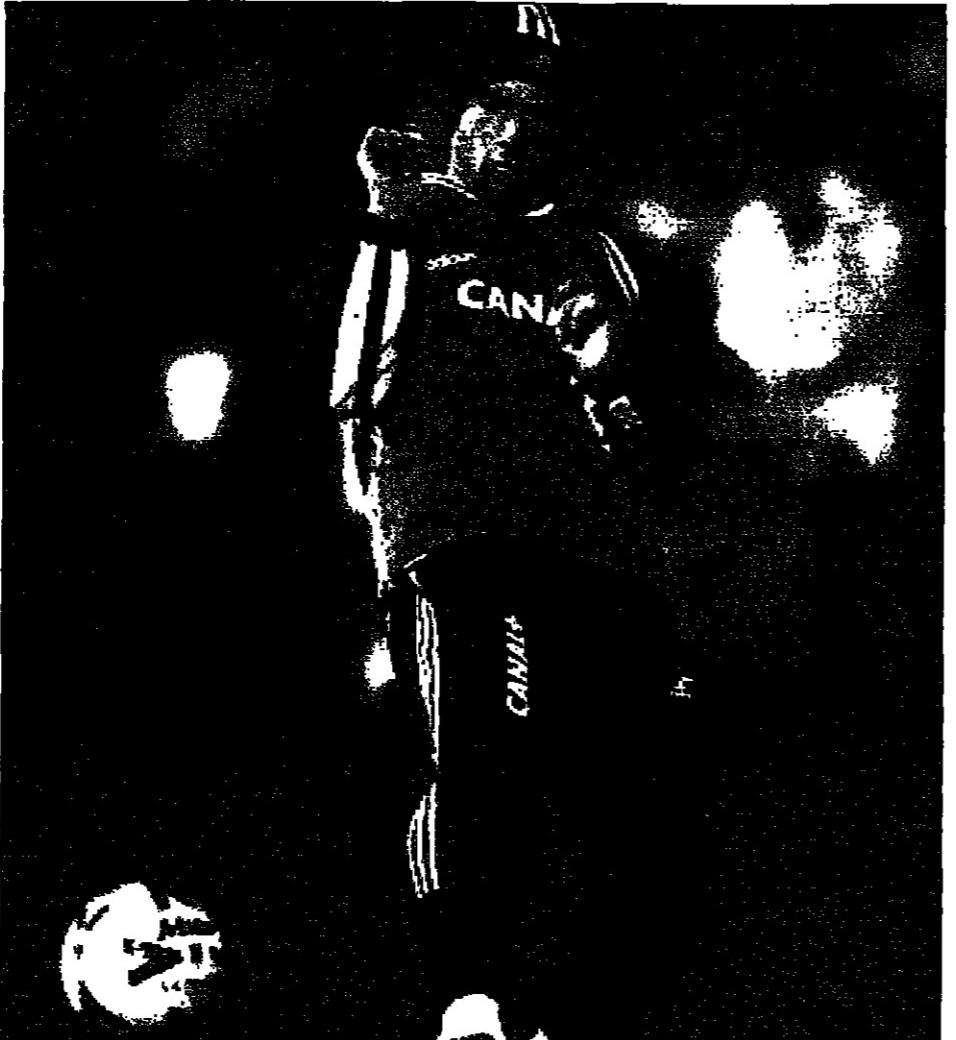
"With such a poor record, it's obvious I badly want victory at Wembley. It would be historical for France who have never won here and for me too," he said.

"I always play to win but there are some victories which mean more than others... and taming Morocco at Marseille is not the same as beating England at Wembley," he said.

"We must be ready for a very strong physical challenge. We will have to play very fast because the English are not going to leave us time to take a breath before the final whistle," he said. "But we are the world champions... and for the next four years we will be the team to beat."

"I know France have never won at Wembley stadium, but we had never won in Russia before the last time we went to Moscow."

In October France beat Russia 3-2 in a Euro 2000 qualifier.



French midfielder Zinedine Zidane plays with the ball on Monday at Harrow Borough stadium in London during a training session two days before the friendly soccer match England vs France at Wembley stadium (AFP photo)

# Arsenal veteran Dixon recalled to England team

LONDON (R) — Arsenal defender Lee Dixon, who last played for England more than five years ago, was recalled on Tuesday to the team for Wednesday's prestige friendly international against world champions France at Wembley Stadium.

Dixon, who will be 35 next month and who won the last of his 21 caps against San Marino in November 1993, was called into the injury-hit squad by caretaker coach Howard Wilkinson on Monday.

He is one of four Arsenal players in the defence along with goalkeeper David Seaman, and centre-backs Tony Adams and Martin Keown.

Captain Alan Shearer, who missed England's last international against the Czech Republic in November, also returns to the side for his 47th cap.

He will be looking to add to his 22 international goals and score against the French as he did the last time the teams met in June 1997 when England won 1-0 in Montpellier.

England:

David Seaman; Lee Dixon, Tony Adams, Martin Keown, Graeme Le Saux; David Beckham, Paul Ince, Jamie Redknapp, Darren Anderton, Alan Shearer, Michael Owen.



New England coach Howard Wilkinson at Bisham Abbey, near London, Monday, during training ahead of Wednesday's game with France at Wembley. It will be Wilkinson's first game since he succeeded the controversial Glenn Hoddle (AP photo)

# Ancelotti is Juventus coach after Lippi goes



Recent file photo of Parma soccer coach Carlo Ancelotti, who was appointed coach of Italian champions Juventus on Monday following the resignation of Marcello Lippi (AFP photo)

ROME (R) — Juventus appointed Carlo Ancelotti as coach with immediate effect on Monday following Marcello Lippi's dramatic resignation on Sunday night.

The Italian champions announced their decision after an emergency board meeting in Turin. They described the situation created by Lippi's departure as "delicate".

"Juventus have invited Carlo Ancelotti, whose contract had already been

formalised for the next two seasons, to take over as team coach immediately..." they said in a statement.

Ancelotti, who had been due to take over from Lippi at the end of this season, confirmed he would accept the appointment.

He was out of contract and, when Lippi stepped down after Juventus' abject 4-2 home defeat by Parma on Sunday, was the obvious man to take over.

The former Roma and AC

Milan midfielder inherits a Juventus side embroiled in their worst season for 37 years.

They are ninth in the championship, 15 points off the pace.

They are out of the Italian Cup and Ancelotti has less than a month to sort them out before they tackle Greek side Olympiakos Piraeus in the quarter-finals of the European Cup.

Juventus have scored only 22 goals in their 20 league matches and, with Alessandro Del Piero still injured, have conspicuously failed to find a solution to their goal drought.

Like Sacchi, he believes in strict 4-4-2 formations and tends to build teams based on work rate and cooperation rather than flair and gifted playmakers.

His appointment has been criticised by many Juventus fans but he has appealed for a period of grace.

"Let the fans judge me on my results," he said last month when he was formally appointed as Lippi's successor.

Lippi angrily quit within minutes of Sunday night's defeat.

If the problem with this team is me, then here's my resignation. Let's see this team without the Lippi problem," he said. "I've tried to do everything possible to wake this team up but I've failed." His exit brings a remarkably successful era to an end.

He then moved to AC Milan where he linked up with the man who would become his coaching mentor — Arrigo Sacchi.



Photo dated November 29, 1998 shows Juventus coach Marcello Lippi leaving the field in Bologna after his side was defeated. Lippi quit as coach of Italian champions Juventus late February 07, minutes after his team suffered a humiliating 4-2 home defeat to Parma. Lippi, who had announced before Christmas that he would be leaving at the end of the season, said that resigning would solve the 'Lippi problem' at the club. No confirmation was available from club officials (AFP photo)

reached a deal to coach Inter Milan next season but neither the club nor the coach have confirmed the reports.

# Agassi rolls into 2nd round in San Jose

SAN JOSE, California (R) — Second seed Andre Agassi fine-tuned his game against doubles specialist Todd Woodbridge on Monday, rolling to a swift 6-2 6-1 victory over the Australian in the opening round of the Sybase Open.

"It was a good first match for me because Todd's weapons aren't going to blow you off the court," said Agassi, who improved to 6-0 against Woodbridge.

"I'm going to work you left and right, to look to get in and hit a lot of creative shots. That allows me the freedom to work into my game," Agassi said.

Fourth seed Michael Chang also advanced easily with a 6-2 6-2 drubbing of Brazilian Fernando Meligeni.

Two seeds were ousted with number five Mariano Puerta of Argentina falling 6-2 4-6 6-3 to Norway's Christian Ruud, while seventh seed Mariano Zabaleta of Argentina was crushed by Canada's Sebastien Lareau 6-2 6-1.

Agassi, who was stunned in the fourth round of the Australian Open two weeks ago by unheralded compatriot Vince Spadea, said he was still depressed by the loss but plans to continue his quest to return to the Grand Slam winner's circle.

"You have to build up

the momentum again," reflected Agassi, a four-time champion here.

"When I'm playing a big tournament and there's so much riding on every match, then you blow the steam with a loss you have to start again," Agassi, 28, who hasn't reached a Grand Slam quarter-final since 1996, was at a loss to explain his recent struggles in the majors.

"I know I've got more room to improve. I find myself quite frequently being frustrated that I'm not playing better and that's kind of good in a strange, sick way," Agassi said.

Even after thumping Woodbridge, he didn't feel quite right.

"I'm a step away from playing big time tennis

against big time players in big time situations. I need to be a predator out there," said Agassi, who has been working on his physical conditioning.

Pete Sampras, who has been number one in the world for a total of 258 weeks, resumes his chase of Ivan Lendl's record of 270 weeks at the top this week.

Sampras, who passed up the Australian Open citing exhaustion, makes his 1999 debut here Tuesday night, when he faces Spaniard Galo Blanco.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Romanian striker retires at 30

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — Romanian striker Ilie Dumitrescu, whose two goals against Argentina at the 1994 World Cup turned him into a national hero, is retiring for personal reasons, his club Steaua Bucharest said Tuesday. Despite a glittering career, the 30-year-old Dumitrescu has been bothered by repeated injuries and a lackluster form in recent months. He played abroad for four years with England's Tottenham Hotspur and West Ham United, Sevilla of the Spanish Primera Division and Mexico's Atlante before returning to Steaua Bucharest, which he played before his international career, in September. Known in Romania for his love of fast cars and Italian clothes, Dumitrescu became a national figure after he unexpectedly scored two crucial goals against Argentina to lead Romania to a 3-2 victory and into the quarterfinals in the 1994 World Cup — its best finish. But by last year's World Cup in France, Dumitrescu's form was shaky. He played only one half of one game — against Tunisia. Romania drew 1-1 with Tunisia and was knocked out by Croatia in the second round. During his 10-year career, Dumitrescu played 58 times for Romania, scoring 19 goals.

### Smoking banned in Saudi stadiums

RIYADH (AFP) — Football fans and officials alike are to be banned from smoking in Saudi stadiums, following a decision by the Saudi football federation Tuesday. "The public as well as trainers and technicians are forbidden to smoke in any of the stadiums in the Saudi kingdom during official matches and friendlies, in view of the harmful effects of nicotine," the fed-

eration said in a statement carried by the SPA news agency. Saudi Arabia, in common with a number of other Gulf states, has adopted a series of anti-smoking measures in the last few years, including an increase in cigarette prices and a ban on cigarette advertising.

### Hingis reclaims top spot from Davenport

STAMFORD, Connecticut (AP) — After 17 weeks of being out of the top spot, Martina Hingis again is ranked the world's top-ranked women's tennis player. The 18-year-old Hingis reclaimed No. 1 by winning the Pan Pacific Open at Tokyo on Sunday. Actually, her semifinal victory over No. 3 Jana Novotna Saturday assured Hingis of moving up from No. 2 after top-ranked Lindsay Davenport was beaten by Amanda Coetzer in the quarterfinals. In rankings released by the WTA Monday, Hingis had 5,722 points. Davenport was No. 2 with 5,547, followed by Novotna, Monica Seles, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, Venus Williams, Steffi Graf, Mary Pierce, Patty Schnyder and Nathalie Tauziat. Hingis was No. 1 from March 31, 1997, to Oct. 11, 1998, becoming the youngest ever top-ranked player since the computer rankings began in 1975. When Hingis first became No. 1, she was 16 years, 6 months, 1 day. So far this year, Hingis has won 14 of 15 matches, including the season's first Grand Slam tournament, the Australian Open, and her last 12 matches. Last year, she lost her No. 1 ranking when she went six months without winning a title. During that same span, Davenport won six titles, including her first Grand Slam singles championship at the U.S. Open. "I was 16 when I first got the No. 1 ranking," Hingis said. "I just hope I can now hold on to it longer, maybe as long as I play tennis."

# Rusedski, Moya through to 2nd round at Dubai Open

DUBAI, UAE (AP) — Britain's Greg Rusedski moved into the second round of the \$1 million Dubai Open Monday by defeating Sjeng Schalken of the Netherlands, 6-4, 6-4.

Meanwhile, second-seed Carlos Moya of Spain survived a first-set scare to beat Sweden's Magnus Norman 1-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Rusedski was happy to return to his winning form and appeared set to face some of the world's top players who are taking part in the tournament.

"I was really pleased with the way I played. I feel more relaxed and much more positive. I want to compete against the best and here you have six of the top ten players in the world," the fourth seed said.

Moya looked like he was on his way to an early exit but managed to recover after a dismal first set against Norman to win the next two and advance.

Sixth-seed Albert Costa overcame Morocco's Hicham Arazi 6-3, 6-2 while former French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten advanced to the second round by defeating Juan Antonio Marin of Costa Rica 6-4, 6-4.

**JORDAN TIMES E-MAIL:**  
jotimes@go.com.jo

FILE — The Olympic flame is seen during the Sarajevo Winter Olympics in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, in 1984. The Sarajevo Winter Olympics were held in 1984, despite the ongoing conflict in the city.

## Former IOC official's son denies report of dubious trip to Nagano

TOKYO (AP) — Nagano officials said Tuesday that they have found no wrongdoing in the Japanese city's bid for the 1998 Winter Games.

The Japanese Olympic Committee (JOC) has been investigating Nagano's bid at the request of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). The Nagano city and prefectural (state) investigation was carried out in response to the IOC inquiry.

Nagano city hall said in a statement that it had found four cases in which family members of IOC officials visited Nagano by themselves, at the expense of the bidders. It did not elaborate.

Nagano bidders also presented IOC officials with soccerballs, judo outfits and other athletic equipment, but they were donations for nations where such items were lacking, and not personal gifts to IOC officials, the statement said.

Nagano Gov. Goro Yoshimura was quoted by Kyodo News service as saying that their investigation showed that the bidders' treatment of IOC members was "within the scope of common sense." Ever since the Olympic scandal began to unfold with allegations of bribery in Salt Lake City, scrutiny has intensified into Nagano's bid.

The national Yomiuri newspaper reported Tuesday that at least three IOC officials will be part of the JOC's report as suspected of accepting free trips to

Nagano for their family members in violation of IOC rules.

But the son of former IOC vice president and former head of the U.S. Olympic Committee Robert Helmick — one of the three officials — said he went to Nagano once, sometime between 1989 and 1994, but it was for his own business purposes and was unrelated to the Olympics.

"I think it's funny how rumors get started," the younger Robert Helmick said in a telephone interview from Denver, Colorado. "It had nothing to do with the Olympics." Helmick's father denied he had anything to do with his son's trip to the city.

"I have no knowledge of that," he said in a telephone interview from Des Moines, Iowa. "We have nothing to do with each other's business."

Agustin Arroyo, an IOC member from Ecuador, who has been suspended and recommended for expulsion in the Salt Lake scandal for allegedly receiving financial support for living and travel expenses, visited Japan in September 1990, the Yomiuri said.

While he was at meetings in Tokyo, his wife and her friend were wined and dined by bidders in Nagano, including visits to a hot spring, a restaurant specializing in beef dishes and an apple orchard, the report said.

The Yomiuri also reported that the JOC suspects

Algerian IOC official Mohamed Zerguini of receiving free trips to Nagano for himself, his son and his son's wife.

Arroyo and Zerguini could not be immediately reached for comment.

Nagano bid officials have acknowledged they went all out to woo IOC officials, including entertainment by geisha at fancy restaurants.

The bidders have also said they gave a painting and sword, both worth thousands of dollars, to IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch. The IOC says it has the painting at its headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland, but denies having ever received the sword.

Nagano artist Eisetsu Shiratori said he gave one original painting of a kimono-clad woman to Samaranch but made colour Xeroxes of the original for 20 IOC officials who visited Nagano.

He said in a telephone interview Monday that the original was worth more than a million yen (\$9,000), but the copies were worth at most 20,000 yen — within the limit of IOC rules under the exchange rate at that time.

There is no limit on the value of gifts for Samaranch, under IOC rules, because he accepts them on behalf of the IOC and does not vote in the selection of host-cities. IOC officials are limited to gifts under \$150.

## O'Neal leads Lakers against Spurs

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Shaquille O'Neal scored 26 points and helped hold David Robinson to 11 as the Los Angeles Lakers beat San Antonio 80-75 on Monday night, handing the Spurs their first loss of the season.

O'Neal also led the Lakers on boards, grabbing 13 rebounds as Los Angeles outrebounded San Antonio 51-38. Eddie Jones added 21 points while Kobe Bryant had 19.

San Antonio, which won its first two games, was led by Tim Duncan with 21 points and 15 rebounds. Robinson shot just 4-for-11 from the field with seven rebounds.

**Pistons 106, Wizards 103**

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Grant Hill scored a career-high 46 points, including the go-ahead free throw with 13 seconds remaining, as Detroit remained undefeated.

Hill, whose previous high was 38 points in a 124-120 win over Indiana on April 20, 1997, tied the mark for high game in The Palace, shared by Shaquille O'Neal.

Hill shot 14-for-21 from the field and 18-for-22 from the line. He also had seven assists, seven rebounds, two blocked shots and two steals.

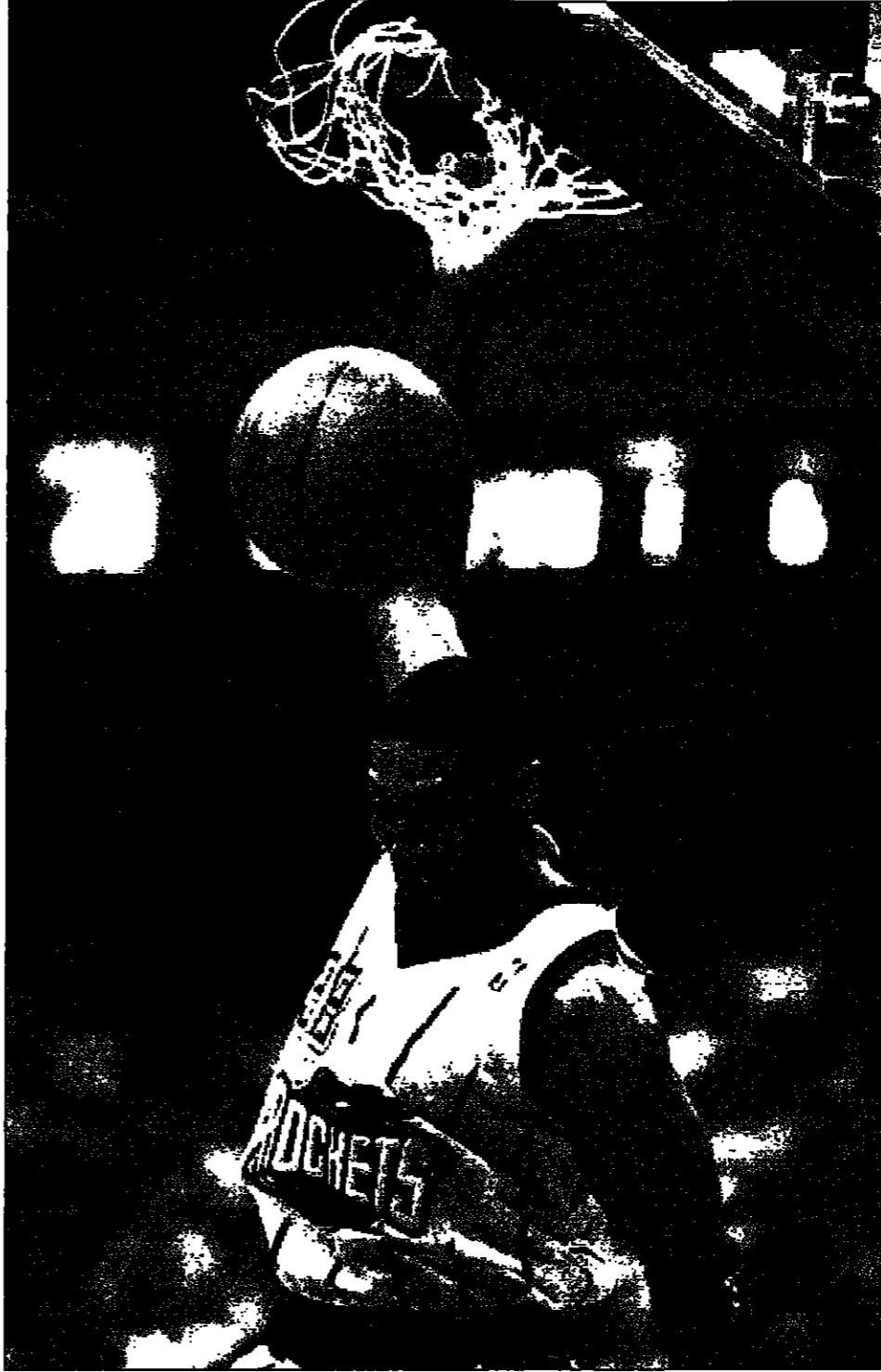
Mitch Richmond scored 26 points for Washington.

**Rockets 99, Nuggets 80**

In Houston, with a sell-out crowd cheering his every move, Scottie Pippen had 24 points and 13 rebounds in his home debut for the Rockets.

Houston's threesome of Charles Barkley, Hakeem Olajuwon and Pippen shot a collective 74 per cent from the field in a take-charge first half that ended with Houston ahead by 23.

Charles Barkley continued his fast start with 15 points and 19 rebounds, and his 12 second-quarter



Houston Rockets forward Scottie Pippen slam dunks past the Denver Nuggets on a second quarter fast break on Monday. The Rockets were hosting the Nuggets at the Compaq Center in Houston. Houston beat Denver 99-80 (Reuters photo)

points led a 21-4 charge that put the Rockets in control.

Olajuwon had 14 points and 13 rebounds, giving the Rockets three double-double performances.

**Hornets 94, Heat 91**

In Charlotte, North Carolina, J.R. Reid made several key plays in the final 72 seconds and the Charlotte Hornets avoided their first 0-3 start in four years.

Reid scored four of

Charlotte's last six points and finished with 19. David Wesley added 18 points and 12 assists and Chuck Person and Bobby Phills had 16 points apiece.

Miami, playing the second of three games in three

## Options discussed by Tyson's lawyers

WASHINGTON (AP) — If a no-contest plea got Mike Tyson a year in jail, what would a guilty verdict bring? That's the crux of the discussion inside the offices of Tyson's lawyers as they consider whether to risk an appeal of the former heavyweight champion's sentence for assaulting two motorists after a fender bender in suburban Gaithersburg, Md., in August.

Tyson pleaded no-contest — meaning he neither contested the charges nor admitted guilt — in December. His one-year sentence, levied Friday by District Court Judge Stephen Johnson, could mean the end of the career of the 32-year-old boxer, once on course to become one of the greatest heavyweights.

The lawyers must decide within 30 days of the sentencing whether Tyson's career would be further jeopardized by an appeal to Circuit Court, where a judge could then decide not to accept the no-contest plea and order a trial by jury.

If found guilty, Tyson would not only have another conviction on his record, but would again be subject to Maryland sentencing guidelines that call for a jail term of three to seven years.

In addition, a conviction would worsen Tyson's standing in Indiana and Nevada. Indiana authorities must decide whether Tyson violated his probation for a 1992 rape conviction, and Nevada boxing author-

ies could revoke Tyson's boxing licence for the second time in two years.

In Indiana, Judge Patricia Gifford, who presided over Tyson's rape trial, is awaiting paperwork from Maryland before ruling on whether he violated probation.

The risk of an appeal was discussed at length by Tyson's lawyers on Monday, a source inside the office of lawyer Paul Kemp told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Neither Kemp nor Tyson's other attorney, Robert Greenberg, returned calls.

Prosecutor Douglas Gansler, who led the call for jail time for Tyson, said the boxer could be fighting again in 1999 under his current sentence if he behaves.

"There's a strong argument to be made that he's better off not appealing," Gansler said. "If he were treated like any ordinary prisoner, like he has been, he would be in the (Montgomery County) jail about two to three months." After that, Tyson could be transferred to a prerelease center, a sort of halfway house where he could leave during the day to go to work and return at night.

"He would be in the system about nine months," Gansler said.

Gansler said Tyson is being held in a private cell "for his own protection." If an appeal is filed, Tyson could ask for a bond hearing and be released pending a trial.

## Barnes set for Charlton debut against Liverpool

LONDON (R) — Former England and Liverpool winger John Barnes is expected to make his debut for Charlton Athletic against his old club at The Valley in the English premier league on Saturday.

Barnes, 35, who won two league championships with Liverpool in 1988 and 1990 and was a member of their F.A. Cup winning team in 1989, has joined Charlton on loan until the end of the season from Newcastle United.

Manager Alan Curbishley, who signed Barnes after he impressed in a reserve friendly last week, has the option to sign him on a permanent basis.

He said on Tuesday: "I am delighted to sign him. He has already brought a freshness into the camp and I hope it continues."

Charlton beat Wimbledon 2-0 on Monday night to record their first league win for 13 matches and move from 19th to 18th in the 20-team table.

Barnes, who made 407 appearances for Liverpool in 10 years at Anfield, has played only 23 minutes of premier league soccer for Newcastle this season — ironically against Charlton in a 0-0 draw on the opening day of the campaign.

## Racism still taints British sport on and off the pitch

By Genny Wilkinson  
Reuters

LONDON — Racism still taints British sport on and off the pitch despite official optimism that the problem is declining.

British Sports Minister Tony Banks told Reuters racism on the pitch, in the stands and in the boardroom had dramatically diminished in the past year.

But he conceded that some British sports bodies were still stuck in the 19th century and said public funding would be withdrawn from any organisation letting up on Saturday.

Banks, 35, who won two league championships with Liverpool in 1988 and 1990 and was a member of their F.A. Cup winning team in 1989, has joined Charlton on loan until the end of the season from Newcastle United.

Manager Alan Curbishley, who signed Barnes after he impressed in a reserve friendly last week, has the option to sign him on a permanent basis.

He said on Tuesday: "I am delighted to sign him. He has already brought a freshness into the camp and I hope it continues."

Charlton beat Wimbledon 2-0 on Monday night to record their first league win for 13 matches and move from 19th to 18th in the 20-team table.

Barnes, who made 407 appearances for Liverpool in 10 years at Anfield, has played only 23 minutes of premier league soccer for Newcastle this season — ironically against Charlton in a 0-0 draw on the opening day of the campaign.

play matches against predominantly white teams. "There exists a marked reluctance by white clubs to play black and Asian clubs," said Ian McDonald, author of the Roehampton report.

One Asian respondent to the poll said his accent and the distinctly Asian name of his club made booking fixtures difficult.

"Asian parents have seen the hostility in the stadiums and are reluctant to encourage their children to go to, or play, the game," Powar said. The F.A. started a crackdown on racism last year when it decided to hand out red cards to any player guilty of racist taunts.

"We have a right to expect governing bodies to produce policy consistent with modern sport in the 21st century, not amateur sport rooted in the 19th century," Banks said in an interview.

"We have a right to expect governing bodies to produce policy consistent with modern sport in the 21st century, not amateur sport rooted in the 19th century," Banks said in an interview.

These days black players are well established in the game, but few hold management, coaching or senior administration positions.

Rudd Gullit, Newcastle's boss, is the only black manager in the premier league and Uriah Rennie is the only black referee on the premier-list. And not one member of an ethnic minority sits on the F.A. Council, the ultimate policy-making forum for English soccer.

Nor is there a single Asian soccer player in the premier league despite the fact that the Asian community makes up 3.5 per cent of the population and has one of the highest levels of participation at grass root levels, according to Piara Powar.

In Sunday cricket, black and Asian players rarely

Leeds Metropolitan University and author of a 1995 study on racism in rugby.

Long said rugby league suffered similar problems to football when it came to racial prejudice.

"There is a fair sprinkling of people from African-Caribbean backgrounds but a marked absence of people from Asian backgrounds," he said.

Long said racial slurs were thrown around in the stands and on the pitch alike.

The most notorious of last season's on-pitch racial scuffles occurred when Bramley fullback Anthony Gibbons became the first rugby player to be sent off for racial abuse. As punishment, the RFL banned Gibbons from playing in four matches.

The RFL actively promotes a 13-point action plan, which seeks to eradicate racism from the game at all levels.

Under the plan, professional clubs must condemn racist chants over the stadium's public address system. Clubs had to ensure no racist literature was handed out on match days and had to eradicate any racist graffiti on the grounds.

Players and coaches must follow a code of conduct that prohibits them from making racially abusive remarks. And clubs' development programmes must encourage minorities from within the community into the game.

"The RFL is to be commended for taking the initiatives but the extent to which they've been implemented is questionable," Long said.

"The Commission for Racial Equality thinks some of the players are a bit cynical about it."

FILE — The Olympic flame is lit during the opening ceremonies for the XIV Winter Olympics in Sarajevo's Kosevo stadium, in this Feb. 8, 1984 photo. Ravaged by war and bearing little resemblance to the city that staged the 1984 Olympics, Sarajevo wants to hold the Winter Games in 2010. The Bosnian Olympic Committee announced its intentions on Monday, the 15th anniversary of the 1984 Olympics (AP photo)

## Iran intelligence minister resigns following dissidents' murders

TEHRAN (AFP) — Moderate Iranian President Mohammad Khatami accepted the resignation of his conservative intelligence minister Tuesday, weeks after a shock admission by the ministry that rogue agents were involved in a string of murders of dissidents.

Qorbani said Domi-Najafabadi's resignation follows mounting pressure from radical supporters of the reformist president for a thorough shake-up of the secretive intelligence services over the wave of murders which shocked public opinion.

The minister had resisted repeated calls to step down, with conservative supporters saying the ministry's record was distinguished and denouncing their opponents for making political capital out of the killings.

But in the face of mounting tension over the issue, the president put pressure on Domi-Najafabadi to resign, sources close to the government told AFP.

"Now that after serving at the intelligence ministry for one and a half years... you have decided to resign and stop your cooperation with the government at that ministry... I

accept your resignation," said a statement from the president carried by the official news agency IRNA.

Khatami thanked Domi-Najafabadi "for your great efforts and services" and expressed appreciation for "the valuable endeavours of our colleagues at the intelligence ministry who are the defenders of the revolutionary values as well as national security and the rights of the citizens."

In his resignation letter, the intelligence minister insisted that he had nothing to do with the murders personally and had fought to ensure that agents respected the law and the constitution.

"Recent unfortunate events were against the wishes of the vast majority of the ministry's staff... I was very strongly against them as I am now and was upset," said a text of his letter read on state radio.

The minister said he had finally been persuaded to resign because mounting criticism of his management of the ministry was impeding its effective operation.

He said he hoped his departure would deprive "vengeful enemies of any further oppor-

tunities" to attack the country's security apparatus and "pave the way for suitable conditions for the ministry's effective operation."

Khatami hinted he might find Domi-Najafabadi another job in government. "Of course the government and the nation will certainly benefit from your knowledge and experience and capabilities elsewhere and in an appropriate manner," he said.

Domi-Najafabadi will remain a member of the key political arbitration body, the State Expediency Council, and will be appointed an adviser to the president, the Tehran Times said.

Khatami asked the minister to stay on in a caretaker capacity until "I nominate and introduce a candidate for the intelligence ministry to the parliament."

The government newspaper Iran Daily reported that Ali Yunesi, another conservative cleric and member of a committee investigating the recent murders, was the most likely candidate to succeed him.

Since the 1979 Islamic revolution Yunesi has held a number of senior positions — he headed the powerful Tehran

Revolutionary Court and helped set up the intelligence ministry with the arch-conservative cleric Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshehri.

Two deputy ministers at the intelligence ministry will also be replaced in the shake-up, the Tehran Times said.

Last year's murders shocked public opinion — secular dissident Darioush Forouhar and his wife Parvaneh were stabbed to death in their own apartment in November.

Soon afterwards unknown assailants killed writers Mohammad Mokhtari and Mohammad Poushandeh and a third writer, Majid Sharif, was found dead in mysterious circumstances.

The ministry has so far arrested a number of its agents, who will be tried by a military tribunal.

Domi-Najafabadi's departure is the second from Khatami's government since his shock election victory in May 1997.

Last year reformist interior minister Abdollah Nuri was impeached by the conservative-dominated parliament after allowing pro-Khatami demonstrations which led to scuffles with hardliners.



**CONDOLENCES FROM HONG KONG:** The honorary Jordanian consul in Hong Kong, Fahed Sayah Baghdadi, looks on as an unidentified visitor Tuesday signs a condolence book for the family of King Hussein at the Jordanian consulate general in Hong Kong. King Hussein passed away at the age of 63 and was buried in Amman on Monday (AP photo)

## Albright assured King Abdullah will continue quest for Mideast peace

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State Madeleine Albright says she has assurances from His Majesty King Abdullah that he will "carry his father's flag" in pursuing peace in the Middle East.

Promising to help the new Monarch, Albright in an Associated Press interview Monday cautioned Iraq against any intimidation of its smaller neighbour.

"We have made it clear to Saddam Hussein that were he to threaten any of his neighbours it would be a grave mistake, and we would be prepared to act," Albright said. "And that goes for Jordan."

In a wide-ranging conversation, Albright also made it clear she expects Israel to go ahead with its promised pullback on the West Bank despite repeated Israeli charges that the Palestinians are not carrying out all the promises they made in the Wye accords in October. "From our perspective," Albright said, "the Israeli government and the Israeli Knesset agreed to Wye, and whatever else is going on, we believe the implementation should go on."

The process is in a slump, though, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed not to give up more than the two per cent he has relinquished unless the Palestinian National Authority takes tougher action against terror-

ists.

"We keep pressing them."

Albright said of the Palestinians and Arafat, who visited here last week and is due back in April.

In looking at the Middle East, the death of King Hussein and prospects for a successful succession in Jordan were mostly on Albright's mind.

Two weeks ago, she made an unscheduled stop in Amman to meet then Prince Abdullah, who had just been named the new heir to the Throne by his father, and to offer him financial and other assistance.

"I think we know quite a lot about him," Albright said.

However, she added, "he has a good attitude, and he strikes me as somebody who has a lot of promise."

President Bill Clinton on Saturday registered U.S. support for the King by promising to accelerate \$300 million in aid.

State Department spokesman James Rubin said Monday about \$1 billion in assistance was planned over the next three years.

Albright said the Clinton administration may have to make some "further assessments" of Jordan's strategic situation. In the meantime, she warned Baghdad that "we are very close to Jordan and that Jordan plays an important role."

King Hussein signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1994. His death has raised questions about the future of relations between the two countries and peacemaking across a wider Mideast spectrum.

William Quandt, who was a national security adviser to President Jimmy Carter, said he would be very surprised if the peace treaty between Israel and Jordan came unglued.

"The peace will remain, but it may not be so cozy," Quandt, a government professor at the University of Virginia, said in an interview.

"What happens is up to the Israelis, the Palestinians and the Americans to work through," Quandt said.

## Arafat voices support for King

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat voiced strong support on Tuesday for His Majesty King Abdullah upon his return to the Gaza Strip from the late King Hussein's funeral. "We think he is the best of successors to the best of fathers," Arafat said, adding that he had had a private meeting with King Abdullah after the burial. "God is with him [King Abdullah] and is taking his hand on this difficult mission and this large task," Arafat said. "I am confident of his ability, God willing. We are behind him and beside him and with him on his difficult mission," Arafat said. King Abdullah, 37, who was only named as the successor to King Hussein two weeks ago, was sworn in as the new King on Sunday immediately after his father's death was announced. He has vowed to pursue his father's efforts to keep the Israeli-Palestinian peace process advancing despite difficulties encountered over the past two years under right-wing Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Albright said.

However, she added, "he has a good attitude, and he strikes me as somebody who has a lot of promise."

President Bill Clinton on Saturday registered U.S. support for the King by promising to accelerate \$300 million in aid.

State Department spokesman James Rubin said Monday about \$1 billion in assistance was planned over the next three years.

Albright said the Clinton administration may have to make some "further assessments" of Jordan's strategic situation. In the meantime, she warned Baghdad that "we are very close to Jordan and that Jordan plays an important role."

King Hussein signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1994. His death has raised questions about the future of relations between the two countries and peacemaking across a wider Mideast spectrum.

William Quandt, who was a national security adviser to President Jimmy Carter, said he would be very surprised if the peace treaty between Israel and Jordan came unglued.

"The peace will remain, but it may not be so cozy," Quandt, a government professor at the University of Virginia, said in an interview.

"What happens is up to the Israelis, the Palestinians and the Americans to work through," Quandt said.

Thieves break into Barak's car

APP — Thieves broke into the car of Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak in Tel Aviv on Tuesday morning, causing damage to the vehicle, police said.

We now this

that

israeli who spied

for Soviets

released

## Iraq targets 'enemy planes' in no-fly zone; Britain, U.S. deny

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraqi air defence troops on Tuesday targeted "enemy planes" in the no-fly zone in northern Iraq and reportedly hit one of them, the official INA news agency said, but the United States and Britain denied that any of their aircraft had been hit.

This "absolutely did not occur," said spokesman Michael Doubleday.

Captain Doubleday said he had "no reason" to believe the report and "every evidence" to deny it.

In London, meanwhile, the British defence ministry denied that Royal Air Force planes were involved in any hostile incident.

"As far as we are aware, all our aircraft flew operations today and all returned safely. [There was] no incident in the north as far as we are concerned."

The no-fly zones, imposed after the 1991 Gulf War to protect Iraq's Kurdish and Shiite minorities, extend north of the 36th Parallel and up to the 33rd Parallel in the south, reaching the outskirts of Baghdad.

In Washington, the

Pentagon denied Tuesday that a U.S. plane had been hit.

This "absolutely did not occur," said spokesman Michael Doubleday.

Captain Doubleday said he had "no reason" to believe the report and "every evidence" to deny it.

In a wide-ranging conversation, Albright also made it clear she expects Israel to go ahead with its promised pullback on the West Bank despite repeated Israeli charges that the Palestinians are not carrying out all the promises they made in the Wye accords in October.

From our perspective," Albright said, "the Israeli government and the Israeli Knesset agreed to Wye, and whatever else is going on, we believe the implementation should go on."

The process is in a slump, though, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed not to give up more than the two per cent he has relinquished unless the Palestinian National Authority takes tougher action against terror-

ists.

"We keep pressing them."

Albright said of the Palestinians and Arafat, who visited here last week and is due back in April.

In looking at the Middle East, the death of King Hussein and prospects for a successful succession in Jordan were mostly on Albright's mind.

Two weeks ago, she made an unscheduled stop in Amman to meet then Prince Abdullah, who had just been named the new heir to the Throne by his father, and to offer him financial and other assistance.

"I think we know quite a lot about him," Albright said.

However, she added, "he has a good attitude, and he strikes me as somebody who has a lot of promise."

President Bill Clinton on Saturday registered U.S. support for the King by promising to accelerate \$300 million in aid.

State Department spokesman James Rubin said Monday about \$1 billion in assistance was planned over the next three years.

Albright said the Clinton administration may have to make some "further assessments" of Jordan's strategic situation. In the meantime, she warned Baghdad that "we are very close to Jordan and that Jordan plays an important role."

King Hussein signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1994. His death has raised questions about the future of relations between the two countries and peacemaking across a wider Mideast spectrum.

William Quandt, who was a national security adviser to President Jimmy Carter, said he would be very surprised if the peace treaty between Israel and Jordan came unglued.

"The peace will remain, but it may not be so cozy," Quandt, a government professor at the University of Virginia, said in an interview.

"What happens is up to the Israelis, the Palestinians and the Americans to work through," Quandt said.

## Iraq says King Abdullah seeks better ties

BAGHDAD (AFP) — His Majesty King Abdullah is seeking to strengthen ties with Baghdad, Iraq's official INA news agency said Tuesday.

The King said his country "wanted to pursue bilateral relations and examine ways of developing them in the interest of the two brotherly people," the agency said.

The King's vow came during a meeting Monday in

Amman with Iraqi Vice President Taha Moheiddin Ma'arouf who was attending the funeral for King Hussein.

Ties between Baghdad and Amman have thawed following two crises, one in 1995 and the other at the beginning of 1998.

In February, the two countries signed an economic cooperation pact and renewed in January an oil agreement for 4.8 million

tonnes of Iraqi crude in 1999.

Prior to the 1990-91 Gulf crisis, when crippling U.N. sanctions were imposed on Iraq after it invaded Kuwait, Baghdad was one of Jordan's main trading partners.

Some Arab states accused Jordan of supporting Baghdad during the crisis. Jordan condemned the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait but called for an Arab solution to the crisis rather than international sanctions.

King Hussein's death on Sunday was announced with comment in Iraq.

In an interview published by Arabic language daily Al Hayat on Saturday, before the death of King Hussein, King Abdullah pledged to continue "the traditional policy" of Jordan with Iraq.

But he ruled out in present circumstances "a rehabilitation of the Iraqi regime."

## No evidence of arms production at bombed Sudan plant — expert

NEW YORK (AP) — Soil and debris samples from a Sudanese pharmaceutical plant destroyed by U.S. cruise missiles in August have yielded no evidence the factory was used to make chemical weapons, according to an American scientist hired by the plant's owner.

The New York Times reported Tuesday that an analysis indicating the presence of the two chemicals.

The raid, and another on alleged terrorist training camps in Khost, Afghanistan, were meant to curb activities of Saudi-financier and alleged terrorist Osama Ben Laden, U.S. officials said.

"We stand by our evidence indicating the presence of a chemical weapons precursor at this plant," P.J. Crowley, a spokesman for the National Security Council, told the Times.

"We continue to believe that this was an appropriate action to preempt Osama Ben Laden from further attacks against the United States," he said.

Salah Idris, a Saudi businessman who claims ownership of the pharmaceutical plant, is preparing to sue the United States for damages, his American lawyer said Friday.

Lawyers for Idris said he will bring charges in a U.S. court unless the Clinton administration agrees to compensate him and release his assets in American banks, said attorney John Scanlon.

## Senate begins deliberations in Clinton trial

WASHINGTON (R) — The Senate went behind closed doors on Tuesday for final deliberations in President Bill Clinton's impeachment trial, rejecting an attempt to let the public see the conclusive debate on the president's fate.

With votes to acquit Clinton on two articles of impeachment expected by Friday, the Senate turned off the television cameras, closed the doors and cleared the chamber for the last arguments in the month-long trial.

Few senators believed the final debate would change any opinions, as votes have solidified through weeks of arguments and presentations in the second presidential impeachment trial in history. And almost no one believed the Senate would get the 67 votes needed to remove Clinton from office.

"To honestly believe you are going to change any minds in a closed-door session is a remarkable leap," said Sen. Chuck Hagel, a Nebraska Republican.

Proponents of opening the doors said Americans were entitled to hear the arguments leading to the final votes, while opponents said open debate would lead to grandstanding that would prolong the trial and limit a full exploration of the issues.

"I'm very sorry we aren't going to be

able to deliberate in the open so Americans can see why their senators voted the way they did," Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, a Texas Republican, told reporters.

Senators will be allowed to put their final debate